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# HIGH TIMES

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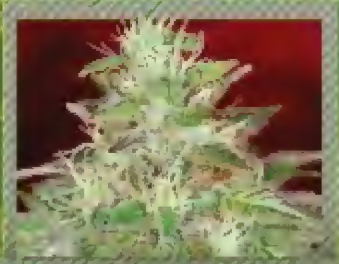
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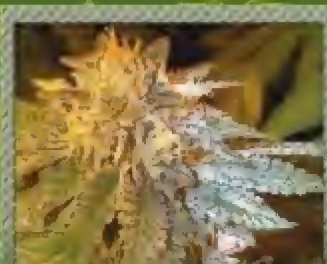
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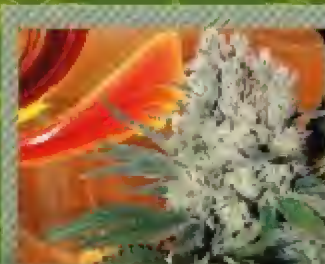
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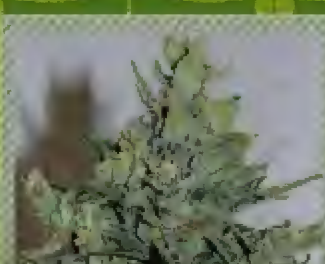
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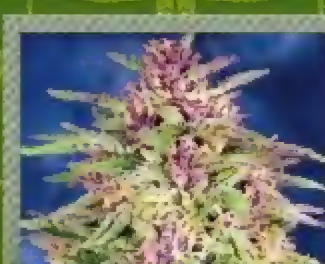
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BRIAN JAHN

## GROW GEAR OF THE YEAR

More than a decade ago, HIGH TIMES began our annual tradition of highlighting the best tools and products available to marijuana farmers around the planet. And each September issue since, our intrepid Cultivation Department and its high-minded allies have scoured the world's grow shops, hydroponic-industry conventions and clandestine cannabis farms to discover new and improved products and breakthroughs and bestow upon them one of our coveted S.T.A.S.H. Awards (for Significant Technological Achievements in Secretive Horticulture).

From the affordable to the extravagant, our focus remains on products that improve life for ganja growers, especially when it comes to making difficult or repetitive growroom tasks simpler, as well as anything that ultimately results in bigger harvests of higher-quality cannabis. Whether it's an innovative grow-box, a new nutrient line, a nifty hydroponic tray or a recent indoor-lighting breakthrough, the best gear for pot farming should pay for itself within a grow cycle or two and continue to perform admirably year after year. And you heard about it here first!

Durability, stealth and price points also come into consideration when choosing which products to shine our light upon. We keep our ear to the plants, so to speak, by intently listening to the many growers we meet.

Also in this pot-packed issue: Cultivation reporter Ben Kind investigates what could be "Canada's Biggest Grow," a greenhouse capable of producing literally thousands of pounds of herb per year. On the West Coast, we take a four-seasons tour of the organic outdoor gardens of WAMM, the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana, where activist growers prove that cannabis cultivation can be a highly political act as well as a compassionate one. And that's not to mention our comprehensive vaporizer reviews and an in-depth look at indoor grow lighting.

Behold and enjoy!

*Danny Danko*

Danny Danko  
Senior Cultivation Editor

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Each year, the HIGH TIMES Cultivation Department searches far and wide to discover cannabis-growing products that will ease the burden on pot farmers while resulting in bigger yields and better quality. Check out our choices for the best and most innovative gear of the year in our latest S.T.A.S.H. Awards (for Significant Technological Achievements in Secretive Horticulture).

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BY MIKE CORRAL

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BY BEN KIND

The acre-long greenhouses of Lake Erie's northern shore once housed Canada's entire tobacco-farming industry, but lately there's a new combustible moving in. We bring you the surprising details of the world's largest grow under glass and tell you how one grower-cum-activist is changing the game using little more than water, sunlight and quail.

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BY MARK MILLER

Many people who smoke pot report that they feel a stronger sense of spirituality when they're high. That's nothing new—for centuries, cannabis has been an integral part of finding one's way to the Creator.

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BY SVEN GARDENER

The HIGH TIMES staff puts an array of popular vaporizers through their paces to help you choose the best device for your vaping needs. Efficiency, cost, portability and stealth all factor into this thorough overview of the current vaporizer market.

### 86 CANNABIS CLOWNS: THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW WITH INSANE CLOWN POSSE

BY CHRIS SIMUNEK

Love 'em or hate 'em, America's most controversial hip-hop crew are here in HIGH TIMES. That's right, stoners—step right up and watch Violent J and Shaggy 2 Dope of the Insane Clown Posse murder joints and slaughter bongloads with reckless abandon.

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EDITED BY DAN SKYE  
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### feedback

#### HIGH TECH

In your **Best of HIGH TIMES** Special Collector's Edition, you gave an award to Hydroplex in a category called Best New Rotating Grow Unit. I have a few questions about this product and category.

I have a small legal medical grow in California. I started it a few years back and have looked to HIGH TIMES for quality articles on growing techniques and how to get the most from my efforts. However, I have found this latest trend of rotating grow units to be both under-investigated and a very immature (if not misguided) technology. This isn't meant as a slam on Hydroplex in particular, but I have seen these types of units and they all seem to be overly complex with the shell and moving parts.

That caveat aside, I appreciate your forward vision in bringing us all this new and great technology. Thanks!

Jay Crestline  
California

Check out our 13th Annual S.T.A.S.H. Awards on page 36 to read about all the best and latest grow gear.

#### INDO IN INDIANA

I do love your mag and read it often, but I was disappointed by your portrayal of Indiana's cannabis-law reform movement in the latest issue. Various legislative bills and developments were broken down on a state-by-state basis—but when it came to Indiana, the article said merely "no serious movement." In fact, I can tell you as an Indiana NORML member that the movement here has been gaining momentum for some years now and is currently stronger than ever.

Just this year, we helped support SB 192—authored by Indiana Democratic Senator Karen Tallian—through both the Indiana Senate and House. Now dubbed SR 70, the resolution urges the state's Legislative Council to direct the Sentencing Policy Study Committee to investigate the effects of potential changes to marijuana policy in the Hoosier State ([www.in.gov](http://www.in.gov)). We also held our first-ever Indiana Cannabis Awards the night of April 19, 2011, to honor those who have done the most to champion the cannabis/hemp plant and demand its liberation—indeed, its exoneration. The following day at high noon, members and supporters of Re-Legalize Indiana/Indiana Cannabis Action Network (ICAN) paraded from downtown Indianapolis to the Indiana state-house with signs and flyers calling for the (re-)legalization of cannabis/hemp—all set to the tune of *Family Guy's* famously 420 song, "Everything's Better With a Bag of Weed," blaring from a portable PA system.

This only scratches the surface of what's been happening here. I urge you in the future to please give us at Indiana NORML a buzz.

Ian Summers  
Indiana NORML



#### GENTLE BEN

I wanted to inform everyone that we recently lost one of the greatest cannabis activists of our time: Ben Masel passed away on April 20, 2011. Ben organized the Great Midwest Harvest Festival as well as the annual Weedstock, and he was in the front lines forming the Hemp Tour. He was a tireless fighter for freedom and was arrested well over 100 times as a citizen defending our constitutional rights. He was also an

inspiration to others: As just one example, the Cannabis Action Network—which has produced more than 1,000 cannabis-legalization rallies, teach-ins and concerts across the US—have cited Ben as a key influence. He accomplished so much in his life and was the nuts-and-bolts behind so many actions. Now his legend will live on as an intellectual, inspirational true hero.

Shelley A.

#### PAUL VS. JOHNSON

High! I just wanted to say thanks for the forum and comments on Republican presidential candidates Ron Paul and Gary Johnson. I was disappointed that folks chose Johnson over Paul for the most part—especially because the comments indicated that many of your folks thought RP and his son Rand Paul were kooky. I personally think that Rand is pretty good, but I feel very firmly that Ron is a very moral and well-educated individual. For example, he's been a longtime opponent of the War on Drugs and has been marginalized and called kooky throughout his political career because of it.

Ron Paul also long ago correctly predicted that our actions in Iraq (such as the sanctions we had against the country for 10 years) would increase the chances of terrorists attacking our nation. I bring this up because, despite the fact that your staff may see Mr. Johnson as more electable because of his youth, I'm not sure that he has such a record on wise insight into foreign policy.

As a final comment, I understand that Mr. Paul is well-aged. However, I believe that he would only need a few months to end our military conflicts as well as the War on Drugs. He could also choose to veto bills that wish to increase wasteful spending. Either way, I wanted to show you some of why I believe RP has alot of standing to be president. Thanks for your time!

Jake R. Iowa

#### ERRATA

Due to an error in printing, the story "Don't Blame the Reefer" in our July 2011 issue was cut off. You can read the story in its entirety here: <http://hightimes.com/psychosis>.

We apologize for the confusion.

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## WORST POT ENDORSEMENT EVER

Inside the compound where Osama bin Laden was killed, a few ratty-looking pot plants were discovered. Given the numerous reports over the last decade that bin Laden was suffering from renal disease, London's *Daily Mail* speculated that he could have been smoking pot to ease his kidney ailments.

But let's disarm the Drug Warriors right now, before they start claiming that pot is a gateway drug to terrorism. According to those same reports, bin Laden was also growing plenty of potatoes and cabbage—which we're fairly sure have nothing to do with terrorism either.

By the way, the crack reporters at the *Daily Mail* also wrote: "Searing heat in the northwestern region of the country would provide ideal conditions for the plant to grow." Journalism at its finest!



Was "Rick Simpson oil" responsible for defeating cancer?



## TRUE MEDICAL MIRACLE

Shortly before his second birthday, Cash Hyde of Montana was diagnosed with brain cancer. Last May, doctors were able to remove ten percent of the tumor wrapped around his optic nerve. Although the surgery blinded Cash, his sight returned after his second chemo treatment. But further treatments gave him seizures and left him unable to eat, so Cash was placed on eight different nausea medications as well as morphine and dilaudid.

After weeks of watching their son slowly die, Cash's parents decided to secretly administer the "Rick Simpson method" and began putting highly concentrated cannabis oil into Cash's feeding tube. Very soon, Cash was taken off all nausea and pain medication and his appetite returned.

Unfortunately, a blood infection caused septic shock and four "code blues." During this period Cash was on adult doses of over five different medications, including Ketamine and Methadone. However, he was weaned off all of these in four weeks with just cannabis oil. The parents believe the oil saved their son by providing a neuro-protectant during septic shock.

When given the details, cannabis expert Dr. Lester Grinspoon responded: "There are many questions about this case, but it certainly seems to be true the cannabis played a salutary role in saving him from the complications of the medical intervention." Unfortunately, media coverage was primarily devoted to attacking the parents for providing their son marijuana, while the real medical facts were routinely ignored.

Does cannabis cure cancer? It certainly worked for Cash Hyde. In fact, doctors recently declared him cancer-free.

## DELAWARE DOES IT!

Delaware is now the 16th state to enact medical marijuana laws. Gov. Jack Markell signed legislation in May that legalized growing, distribution and use for limited medical purposes. Although Delaware has a population of nearly 900,000, only three dispensaries will be permitted to open and that won't be for another year as the state has authorized a one-year regulatory and licensing process. Additionally, only severely ill patients will qualify for the program—those suffering from cancer, HIV/AIDS, multiple sclerosis, ALS, Alzheimer's disease and post-traumatic stress disorder. Other patients with chronic disease or debilitating medical conditions may qualify only if other treatments have failed to deliver relief. Patients may possess up to 6 ounces, but will not be able to grow. Growing and distribution will be handled solely through dispensaries.

## EXTORTING JUSTICE

Talk about plea bargains! In Mendocino County, District Attorney David Eyster has found a lucrative way to move the wheels of justice. If you've been busted on felony pot charges, a little cash will get your charges knocked down to a misdemeanor. A \$50 per plant "eradication fee" will buy you probation and varying lengths of community service depending on the size of your crop. The new program has helped clear Mendo's court docket and brought in over \$117,000 in revenue to the county sheriff's office.

The sheriff's office makes no secret of its affection for funds from drug asset forfeiture. In fact, it reports that it pays for police overtime. That way they can make more drug busts, so they can pay for overtime, so they can make more drug busts...



## KILL THE MYTH!

A meta-analysis published online in the journal *Schizophrenia Research* reports that schizophrenics with a history of cannabis use demonstrate "superior neurocognitive performance" compared to non-users. Investigators at the University of Toronto's Institute of Medical Sciences reviewed eight separate studies assessing the impact of marijuana consumption on cognition, executive function, learning and working memory in schizophrenic subjects. The researchers found that the results of each of the performance measurements suggested "superior cognitive functioning in cannabis-using patients as compared to non-using patients."

Even so, the investigators hesitated to attribute their subjects' cannabis use to the improved outcomes, hypothesizing instead that patients with superior cognitive skills may be more likely to acquire cannabis than subjects with lesser abilities. "[I]t is difficult to determine whether it is cannabis itself that triggers alterations in neuropsychological functioning or if drug-using patients represent a subset of the schizophrenia population who exhibit better neurocognitive performance," they wrote. Nevertheless, they concluded that it would be reasonable to assume that "cannabis likely has modest ... effects on neurocognitive function in schizophrenia."

Meanwhile, in April, scientists at the University Hospital of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in Bern, Switzerland, published clinical trial data indicating that cannabis use appears to play virtually no role in the early onset of psychosis in younger patients. Researchers assessed the differences in the age of onset among 625 patients admitted to the Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centre in Melbourne, Australia. They reported: "Only cannabis use ... starting at age 14 was associated with an earlier age at onset at a small effect size." Overall, the age of onset for patients with first-episode psychosis "was not significantly different" among patients with a history of cannabis use versus non-users.

A 2010 US study reported similar results. Here, researchers questioned the well-publicized findings of earlier studies suggesting that cannabis use may accelerate the possibility of a psychotic break in genetically susceptible subjects. The report concluded that such studies "may need to more comprehensively assess the relationship between cannabis use disorders and schizophrenia." —Paul Armentano

## ALL-STAR STONERS

Major League Baseball's mid-season classic just took place. We're sure you remember who won. Maybe you could tell us because we forgot. Anyway, the stoner world can come up with better players than what we just saw. Here-with, our Stoner All-Star Team.

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John Danks, Chicago White Sox

Brett Gardner, New York Yankees

Tyler Green St. Louis Cardinals

Chris Heasley, Cincinnati Reds

John Jay, St. Louis Cardinals

Andy LaRoche, Oakland A's

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Justin Smoak, Seattle Mariners

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Cannabis medicine is still in its infancy, and who knows what discoveries and breakthroughs we'll be witnessing in the coming years? Certainly, we know that cannabis was a safe and effective medicine for centuries prior to its current criminality. But we're slowly returning to sanity: These days, you can actually use a miraculous, cannabis-based Pain Creme from Apothecanna skincare that won't get you high and won't cause a failed drug test, but will offer relief from sore muscles and skin irritations, as well as helping to heal minor cuts and abrasions.

Best of all, Apothecanna products work. In addition to the Pain Creme, the company carries products like Body Budder, Super Salve and Lip Buzz—already available in 40 stores in Colorado and elsewhere. Visit [apothecanna.com](http://apothecanna.com).



These deep-penetrating, pot-infused products work wonders.

## THE STONED FAMILY ROBINSON



We're all familiar with *The Swiss Family Robinson* via the 1960 Disney film. The novel, published in 1812, was intended as a tool by author Johann Rudolf Wyss to teach his children the importance of self-reliance.

Writer Joselin Linder has updated the tale. In *The Stoned Family Robinson*, the family is shipwrecked on an island—but mostly they're just wrecked, as they construct a house made of weed and sample zillions of exotic strains growing abundantly. This is zonked literature at its best, offering stellar turns of phrase like "you are unable to recognize human form from Hot Pockets." Or even better: "Since he had smoked Durban Poison, his strength was severely compromised and the fallen penguins arose from their swoon and began to waddle away." *The Stoned Family Robinson* is required reading.

# ONE IN THE BAG

Everybody needs a big bag—so why not go for the best and sling a Sativa Bag over your shoulder? These cavernous shoulder bags are constructed from durable hemp and have room for pretty much everything in your life: groceries, books, clothes, pounds of pot—whatever. There's also an interior zipper pocket for all your personal effects, and the wide shoulder strap provides the wearer with comfort and ease. Sativa Bags are sturdy and stylish, perfect for everyday use; they're also great for travel or following Furthur on tour.

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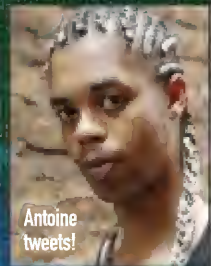
Simms wins!

Last July, Tennessee Titans quarterback Chris Simms was busted in New York City at a DWI checkpoint. At his jury trial in May, arresting officer Francisco Acosta testified that Simms' car reeked of pot, that he acted "like a zombie" and that Simms told him he'd puffed earlier in the evening.

But Simms denied it all. A friend riding in the car confessed to being the toker. Simms was eventually acquitted—no doubt helped by the cop's assertion that he knew pot was being smoked because the smell gives him a headache and makes his tongue goes numb.

## VIDEO STAR POPPED

Last summer, after a home break-in, Antoine Dodson gave a colorful TV news interview in which he ranted: "Hide ya kids, hide ya wife!"



Antoine tweets!

Dodson's diatribe was cleverly incorporated into a rap hit titled "Bed Intruder Song," which received 80 million views and shot to No. 89 on *Billboard's* Hot 100 list.

But being a star invites scrutiny. Dodson was stopped for speeding in Huntsville, AL in his new Mercedes. He was busted for pot and paraphernalia possession, plus failure to appear in court on other warrants. After his release on bond, he tweeted: "Let me be the first to tell it!! So just got out of jail off a weak charge. LmaORoTf!!!!!"



## FEELING A DRAFT

Prior to the NFL draft, some college prospects invariably test positive for pot. Immediately, prognosticators weigh in on how the development will affect their value. This year, it was Justin Houston and Christian Ballard under the microscope. Ballard was predicted to be a second-round draft pick, and Houston a potential first-rounder—but Houston went in round three and Ballard in round four.

No one disputes that they're quality players. The dirty secret is that teams get to shortchange them, citing "doubts" about their character while still benefiting from their excellence on the field.

No one disputes that they're quality players. The dirty secret is that teams get to shortchange them, citing "doubts" about their character while still benefiting from their excellence on the field.

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The strains in Maine are mainly good for pain.

days, and Diane Russell is looking to lead Maine into a new green age.

"Marijuana consumption is so ubiquitous in Maine, it's sort of the 'tee-hee' of any adult in the state," she says. "We all know it's happening. We all know it's being grown. We all know it's being sold and it's also being consumed. And we all know people who are highly successful, contributing members of society who took up in the evening. You know, it's time to stop turning otherwise law-abiding citizens into criminals."

With a seven percent sales tax and over 300 licensed grow ops, Maine stands to reap the benefits of legalization in more ways than one. Supporters estimate that over \$8 million in new revenue would be generated by the licensing fees for grow ops and the sales tax on cannabis—a considerable sum that could go a long way toward helping Mainers struggling in the depressed economy.

Even so, passage of the bill will be a hard-fought battle—nor

is success likely in the current legislature. But defeat in the House isn't the end of the line for cannabis enthusiasts in Maine: Only 60,000 signatures are needed to bring the question of marijuana legalization to a referendum, the results of which will give an accurate picture of popular opinion in the state. It could be this very vote that sees Mainers paving the way toward legalization in 2012.—**Rev. Erick T. Gatcomb**

# MOVING FORWARD IN MAINE

**Maine continues the bitter battle** to end marijuana prohibition with LD 1453, a legislative bill that would legalize, regulate and tax marijuana for individuals over the age of 21. Sponsored by Representative Diane Russell (D-Portland), the bill is co-sponsored by three Republicans and two additional Democrats.

Admitting defeat (and the current War on Pot is certainly a failure) is always the first step to brighter



Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske

## PHANTOM RESEARCH

Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske claimed recently that federally approved studies on the medicinal effects of whole-plant smoked marijuana are now being conducted at a record pace. Speaking to the Washington, DC, publication *The Daily Caller*, Kerlikowske asserted that "there are over 100 groups doing marijuana research, and they're getting their marijuana from the University of Mississippi," which is under contract with the Feds as the only legal supply of cannabis for research purposes in the US. The Drug Czar added that "there are several ... clinical trials right now."

Well, at least that last part is true: A search of the US National Institutes of Health website ([clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov)) using the keyword "cannabinoids" shows that four FDA-approved clinical trials using smoked cannabis are presently underway. However, of these trials, only two are designed to assess the plant's medical efficacy (for multiple sclerosis and irritable-bowel syndrome, respectively). According to the site, a third study focuses on the prolonged detection of pot byproducts in the human body using drug tests, while a fourth—predictably enough—is concerned with the supposed detrimental effects of marijuana on behavior.

Another search using the key word "marijuana" yields many additional hits, but for such things as trials assessing the use of prescription pharmaceuticals to address alleged "marijuana dependency and withdrawal." Additionally, a new DEA white paper boasts that the agency has, to date, licensed only 18 scientists "to conduct research with smoked marijuana on human subjects."

In other words, the federal government's kibosh on objective, unbiased medical-marijuana trials continues unabated, while the Drug Czar himself pretends that a lot of nonexistent research proves the "dangers" of pot.

—**Paul Armentano**



## hemp hostage

Mostafa Soliman, 62, was born in Egypt, but he's lived in the US for 40 years. He operates an international health-food business called Health Harvest. In December 2010, Soliman imported hemp oil from Canada into Egypt, where he hoped to pioneer the wholesaling of hemp oils and foods. In Egypt, such products are completely unregulated, neither legal nor illegal.

Unfortunately, when the shipment arrived, Egyptian authorities mistakenly translated "hemp oil" as "hash oil," since there is no distinct Arabic word for "hemp." On December 7, Soliman was told by the Egyptian government to keep the hemp oil in storage until further notice, and he readily complied. However, on December 30, the police raided his storage facility, seizing the oil and arresting him for importing a controlled substance—a charge that potentially carries the death sentence.

Soliman, now charged with a capital crime, was treated like a major drug kingpin and placed in a maximum-security facility. He posted bail but was freed even earlier, courtesy of the 2011 Egyptian revolution: Ri-

oting protesters released all of the prisoners, including Soliman, who had to flee the burning jail.

Soliman presently resides in a private apartment in Cairo, awaiting his trial date. If he leaves Egypt before standing trial, he can never return, and would also have to relinquish his business interests in the country where he was born. Ironically, Soliman is apolitical and not a cannabis activist; he's simply a businessman who saw a market for hemp products in Egypt and then got ensnared in the country's sometimes byzantine criminal-justice system. Theoretically, he could be sentenced to death if found guilty—but assuming that a more reasonable and responsive judicial system develops in the wake of Hosni Mubarak's ouster, Soliman will have reason for cautious optimism at least.—**Mark Miller**



The Egyptian Revolution ralliers.



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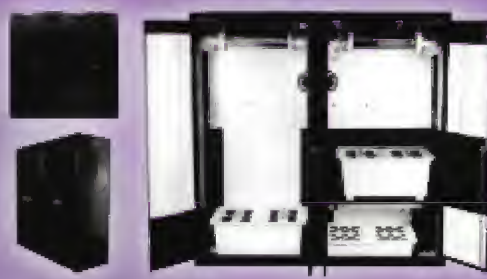
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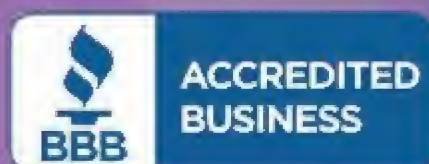
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# OUR MAN IN WASHINGTON

Jared Polis, Colorado's cannabis-friendly congressman, says the only thing we have to fear from marijuana is the federal government's ongoing prohibition, and that it's high time we legalize the herb.

By David Bienenstock

**"HIGH TIMES—you guys were** writing about this before it was popular ...."

I hate to correct a sitting member of the US House of Representatives, particularly one I just met, not to mention one who's been kind enough to set aside some of his highly sought-after time to speak with a magazine that most of his colleagues in Congress wouldn't pick up to swat a fly (at least not in public), but there's an important distinction that needs to be made.

"Actually, marijuana *was* pretty popular back when we started publishing in 1974—it just wasn't respectable."

So how respectable has cannabis become, exactly?

Well, Jared Polis, who represents Colorado's Second Congressional District and now sits fielding questions directly into my dictaphone, has just given the keynote address at the 40th annual conference of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. The event brought America's oldest and largest grassroots cannabis-law reform organization to the Mile High City for an up-close look at a state that's increasingly taking a leading role in the nationwide movement to tax and regulate marijuana.

With the country's first statewide seed-to-sales medical-cannabis regulations nearly in place and a major push already underway for an all-out legalization ballot initiative in 2012, Colorado clearly stands poised to make history. In fact, the three-day conference also included a Denver mayoral debate moderated by Montel Williams (and attended by every major candidate for the office), plus a panel discussion featuring Dan Hartman, director of the Colorado State Medical Marijuana Enforcement Division, a government agency tasked with regulating legal, for-profit cannabis businesses, including specific licensing for cultivators, dispensary owners and even cannabis-infused edibles manufacturers.

Of course, if Jared Polis gets his way, the federal government will simply shut down the War on Marijuana once and for all, nationwide, with the stroke of a pen, thereby ending this longest-lasting American conflict, waged against a beneficial plant. Which sounds like a pipe dream considering that the Feds still



Congressman Jared Polis steps forward as a national spokesperson for cannabis.

maintain the right to arrest terminally ill cancer patients, *even in states with laws specifically to protect them*. But Polis nonetheless says that he will submit a federal legalization bill to Congress shortly after the NORML conference, and even a quick glance at his résumé reveals that he is a man far from accustomed to taking no for an answer. Other federal bills he will co-sign call for an end to IRS persecution of state-sanctioned medical-cannabis businesses, and new rules to ensure that the industry has adequate access to banking services.

"All of these bills are a heavy lift legislatively," Polis admitted during his speech at the NORML conference, "but the good news is that very close to half of all Americans support marijuana legalization. And yet we're still far from having 50 percent of Congress support it."

Polis fervently believes that it's time to transform marijuana-law reform and other issues that politicians traditionally consider too hot to handle into topics too important for them to ignore. That's why he's started the Fearless Campaign, an organized effort to encourage his congressional colleagues to take action on important causes that they usually prefer to duck, initially by focusing on six underserved areas

with strong support among progressive voters: drug policy, food policy, education, immigration, Internet freedom and LGBT equality.

Naturally, the congressman knows HIGH TIMES well enough to realize that we primarily want to talk about pot, but he's also honest enough to admit that it's not his main focus, particularly in a tough economy. Still, those same economic factors allow him to make a strong case for legalization.

"My focus is on jobs and the deficit and all those important things," Polis says, "but I also say, 'Look, marijuana legalization in Colorado has created jobs in my district—it's filled blighted areas of real estate with storefronts while creating even more jobs in all of the ancillary businesses that support the industry. It's helped fill our alternative newspapers with ads; it's helped provide work for accountants and lawyers; and it's generated a lot of tax revenue to support our city and state workers.'"

Basically, the same kinds of arguments that NORML has been making for decades, although I must admit they sound just a bit more, well, *respectable* when they come from a nationally recognized political leader who's also one of America's top entrepreneurs and philanthro-

pists—even one a full five years younger than the organization he came to address. Recently included in (the non-high) *Time's* "40 Under 40" list, which honors "a new generation of civic leaders ... already at work trying to fix a broken system," and previously named Entrepreneur of the Year by the accounting firm Ernst & Young, Polis brings an impressive list of accomplishments to the table that makes his pro-pot message difficult to dismiss, no matter where your politics lie.

"I actually think this issue cuts across the ideological spectrum," he tells me in response to a question on why so-called progressive politicians—including the president—remain so hesitant to get out in front of a winning issue. "There's a strong pro-business libertarian case to be made, a progressive case to be made and an individual-liberty case to be made, and different parts of the political spectrum can support this and be consistent with their core beliefs .... Most representatives in Congress still represent districts where there is no legal mari-

juana, so there's little reason for them to get involved with this issue. It's a very hypothetical discussion at the national level if it's not legal in any state—but once a critical mass of states have legalized and regulated, there will be much more pressure to take action. When we get up to about 30 states that have taken steps towards either medicalization or legalization, I think we will see an enormous wave in Congress."

Polis talks openly about an uncle who used medical cannabis to ease his pain and improve his quality of life while battling terminal cancer, but he seems most at ease discussing the economic and societal benefits of legalization in terms that his fellow business-minded professionals will find compelling. Raised in Southern California and educated at Princeton, he has founded or helped to found several highly successful Internet-based companies, including American Information Systems, an Internet service provider; an online greeting-card company called BlueMountainArts.com, later sold to Excite@Home in a deal worth \$780 million; and ProFlowers, an online florist also sold at a considerable profit. In 2004, *Fortune* magazine estimated Polis's personal wealth at \$160 mil-

lion, but it's likely that number has grown decently since then. Still, despite the deep pockets and fancy office in Washington, DC, he continues to identify with those in the medical-cannabis industry struggling to raise capital.

"Many banks are not doing business with dispensaries because they're worried about the federal government using tax laws or forfeiture laws against them," Polis explains. "So we're trying to clarify the law so that banks don't take on undue risk while doing legal business in states that have legalized medical marijuana."

The congressman confirms that he's work-

proach to marijuana-law enforcement. For example, in December, as the House of Representatives prepared to vote almost unanimously in favor of Resolution 1540, which urges federal law-enforcement agencies to work together on a plan to eliminate illegal marijuana growing from public lands, Polis made sure that his colleagues had to sit and listen to a bit of reasoned argument first—namely that prohibition itself must take the blame for the despoliation of federal lands.

"As long as [marijuana] remains illegal, and as long as there is a market demand, the production will be driven underground," Polis

asserted, suggesting sensible regulation rather than increased ineffective policing as the reasonable way forward. "No matter how much we throw at enforcement, [illegal growers] will continue to be a threat not only to our federal lands, but to our border security and to our safety within our country."

To make things crystal clear, Polis helpfully notes that nobody grows corn, soybeans or even wine grapes in a national forest. Having to constantly point out such basic tenets of supply and demand to a supposedly learned and judicious body of lawmakers must get frustrating; if so, he can certainly take comfort in the fact that NORML founder Keith Stroup first

started down the same road a few years before Polis was even born—and Keith's still got his sense of humor.

In the meantime, both men smell victory in the wind. But neither is naive enough to use a word like *inevitable* to describe the chances for successful marijuana-law reform—not with so many Americans still living in the dark ages of total cannabis repression, and not while our movement still faces enemies so powerful and so determined to keep this plant down. For now, *respectable* will have to suffice.

"I am optimistic that we will reach a day when America has the smart and sensible marijuana policy that we deserve, but I want to emphasize that it's not a given," Polis told the NORML faithful as his speech reached its conclusion. "We like to think we're on the inevitable side of the forward march of history, but that's

not the case. This could go either way. The federal government could crack down and return us to the dark days of oppression against users of marijuana, or we could be at the forefront of a new era. So now is the time to redouble our efforts." 🌿



Polis speaks on the subject of Iraq at a town hall meeting in Colorado.

**'THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT VERY CLOSE TO HALF OF ALL AMERICANS SUPPORT MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION. AND YET WE'RE STILL FAR FROM HAVING 50 PERCENT OF CONGRESS SUPPORT IT.'**

ing directly with the banking industry on legislation to adequately address these concerns, but says he doesn't expect the masters of the financial universe to get too directly involved in this still-controversial issue—particularly since it's unlikely to have a profound effect on their bottom line.

"I don't think the banks have been feeling any pressure directly, but there is a real, tangible risk," he says, "because they never know if the federal government will take action or not. Medical-cannabis dispensaries are small businesses, and why would big banks take a big risk on a small business?"

In the meantime, Polis never misses a chance to interject some much-needed rationality into the federal debate around marijuana, whether that means grilling US Attorney General Eric Holder on the Justice Department's ongoing raids of state-compliant medical-marijuana businesses during his own first appearance as a member of the House Judiciary Committee, or using pending legislation as a way to point out the continued absolute failure of our current prohibitionist ap-

Watch Polis and Holder here:



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# THMQ

## TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS



### MARKET ANALYSIS

Diesel returned to the top five most submitted strains after a month-long hiatus. In the last 43 months, the venerable strain has made the top five 42 times. That record is surpassed only by Kush, which narrowly edged out Purps this month to once again take the top pot spot. Blue Dream was September's fourth-most-popular strain and has now reached the top five three out of the last four months. The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Kush (\$349), Purps (\$349), Diesel (\$410), Blue Dream (\$355) and Haze (\$343).

**Index Watch:** The US Price Index finished slightly above its previous month's average; however, the index is still \$12 below its year-to-date. Both the Kind and Mids indices finished below their previous-month and year-to-date averages, while the Schwag Index hit a six-month high at \$110.

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CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$335** (last month: \$330, YTD: \$347)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$391** (\$403, \$412)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$265** (\$275, \$271)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$110** (\$92, \$104)

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ALABAMA	Auburn	Sour Diesel	\$350
		Purple Kush	\$300
ARIZONA	Mesa	Granddaddy Purps	\$350
ARKANSAS	Paron	Blueberry	\$200
CALIFORNIA	Fairfax	Purple Kush	\$360
		Lavender Full Melt Hash	\$300
		Blackberry Kush	\$200
		Chemdog	\$200
COLORADO	Fort Collins	Bubba OG	\$280
FLORIDA	Hollywood	Granddaddy Purps	\$320
		Blue Dream	\$340
GEORGIA	Statesboro	Granddaddy Purps	\$375
		Blue Dream	\$400
		Blackberry Kush	\$400
HAWAII	Kauai	Blue Cheese	\$375
	Maui	Jack Herer G-13	\$400 \$350
IDAHO	Idaho Falls	Blue Dream	\$260
ILLINOIS	Rockford	Bubba Kush	\$400
INDIANA	New Palestine	Grape Ape	\$325
KENTUCKY	Louisville	King Kush	\$350
MARYLAND	Riverdale	Mids	\$150
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston	Super Silver Haze	\$400
		Master Kush	\$380
MICHIGAN	Detroit	Sour Diesel	\$450
	Grand Rapids	Pineapple Express	\$250
MINNESOTA	Minneapolis	Jack Herer	\$400
		Silver Haze	\$350
		Super Skunk	\$400
		AK-47 C-99	\$400 \$500
NEW YORK	Brooklyn	NYC Diesel	\$500
	Buffalo	NYC Sour Diesel	\$400
		Blue Cheese Strawberry Cough	\$400 \$375
NORTH CAROLINA	Wilmington	Power Plant	\$400
OHIO	Columbus	Strawberry Cough	\$325
		Sour Diesel	\$350
PENNSYLVANIA	Pittsburgh	Master Kush	\$400
TEXAS	Garland	Lemon Haze	\$280
VIRGINIA	Harrisonburg	Granddaddy Purps	\$370
	Norfolk	Purple Nurple	\$370
WISCONSIN	Milwaukee	Blue Dream Strawberry Cough	\$375 \$375
<b>INTERNATIONAL</b> (prices listed in Australian or Canadian dollars, British pounds and Philippine pesos)			
AUSTRALIA	Adelaide	Hydro indica-dominant	AU\$220
CANADA	Saint John Toronto	Jack Herer	C\$180
		OG Kush	C\$260
ENGLAND	Leicester	Blue Cheese	£200
	London	Kush	£220
PHILIPPINES	Manila	Jillybean	PhP16,800

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### Jillybean - 16,800 pesos

Manila, THE PHILIPPINES

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hard to come by, usually smuggled in by the gram through the mail or by ounces and pounds through customs. Local weed is generally sourced from the mountain regions. Prices vary depending on who you score from (you sometimes have to tip the runner and pay for his transportation from the mountains)."


### Granddaddy Purps - \$370

Harrisonburg, VIRGINIA


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## SYLVAIN SYLVAIN ON DRUGS, DECADENCE AND THE NEW YORK DOLLS.

BY JOHN PAYNE

Way back in 1973 or so, when I was just a wee shaver, I got to experience what you'd call a true rock'n'roll moment when I witnessed the then only semi-infamous New York Dolls in action at a taping of *Don Kirshner's Rock Concert* at the Long Beach Auditorium, just outside LA. The band—singer David Johansen, guitarists Johnny Thunders and Sylvain Sylvain, bassist Arthur Kane and drummer Jerry Nolan—were apparently a bunch of transvestite hookers sidelining as musicians. This was like nothing I'd ever seen or heard before. It seemed to be an aesthetic of sorts; a way of life, possibly.

As the band stomped and sashayed and teetered on their way-high platform shoes, I saw how they were quite hilariously tearing a new asshole in the Rolling Stones and all manner of related classic rock'n'roll/blues/R&B/soul that we had come to revere and hold on high. They burned everything away at that *Don Kirshner's Rock Concert* taping, and that would include Black Oak Arkansas even, which is really saying something ... at least I think it is.

Anyway, along their ruinous way, the Dolls went on to record two classic albums, then tottered and fell with the shaky times, as rock bands always do, which in their case was notoriously

followed in fairly short order by the drug-related deaths of Thunders and Nolan. Arthur Kane lived a tortured existence for many years after, finally finding eternal peace in 2004.

That left two standing: David Johansen and Sylvain Sylvain. The pair has in recent times decided to resurrect the Dolls and make it work again in a relevant way for these skanky 2000s. They've just released a new album called *Dancing Backward in High Heels* (429 Records), which ranks as the best thing they've done in years and years, and maybe the best damn thing ever.

*Dancing Backward* isn't quite what one might have expected from these veteran rudeboy rock stars. While their trademark sassy sneering still stabs and seers, the whole thing is soaked in a nostalgic, ruminative kind of air, given sweetly melodic twists and supremely subtle musical shadings via vintage organ, drums played with brushes (!) and, quite often—shock, horror—acoustic guitars!

None of which oughtta come as such a big surprise when you consider that the New York Dolls have always been rooted in '50s and '60s rock'n'roll.

"Oh, definitely," says Sylvain. "I mean, of course the girl groups too, like the Ronettes and Crystals—that was a big Dolls influence, from the Brill Building to Motown—and, of course, the blues. All that mixed in together makes what we consider our 'skyscraper soup' of music, you know?"


You all do or don't remember the great wucka-chugga guitar on past Dolls gems like "Trash"? Well, that comes straight from the Eddie Cochran songcrafting book, and that sound's all over *Dancing Backward*. But while the British Invasion bands meant a lot to him, Sylvain says, it was mainly for what they stole.

"The Brits were really nuts about Gene Vincent and Eddie Cochran and Little Richard, and that's why I loved 'em. And I loved the Beatles when they first came out; I wanted to be everything just like they were—until I saw the Rolling Stones, and then I said, 'Aw, man, the Beatles are too wimpy for me!'" He laughs. "I dug the dirtiness, that raunchiness of the Stones—it was very basic rock'n'roll and R&B and three-chord progressions with a sexy tone to it."

Like I said, the new Dolls album is sometimes

kinda pretty, though wimpy it definitely is not. Yet as undeniably tasty as it is, this new "mature" sound is something you probably wouldn't associate with the band. While songs like "Talk to Me Baby" blast a Motown-rocker/early-T Rex kinda hash that features ace guitar prowess from former Blondie man Frank Infante, others—such as the ska/reggae-ized "The End of the Summer" and "Just Like You"—give choice evidence of Sylvain's way-overlooked melodic prowess. Long overshadowed by frontman Johansen and ultra-rock-star guitarist Johnny Thunders, Sylvain in fact wrote a lot of the Dolls' most classic stuff, like "Trash," "Personality Crisis" "Jet Boy" and "Puss 'N' Boots." Sylvain was a clothing merchandiser in his days before the Dolls and also had a big influence on the band's glam-slut fashion/style sense. But that's another story ....

"In the past," says Sylvain, "a lot of the hook lines that I would write, David wouldn't choose to take them—except for 'Dance Like a Monkey,' which we did for the first reunion album [2006's *One Day It Will Please Us to Remember*]. But in this instance, he took 'em all. On 'Kids Like You,' he just kind of like went into his mode—and,



**'IT'S REALLY SAD THAT WE HAVE TO LIVE IN A TIME WHEN SUCH A WONDERFUL, POSITIVE, GOOD THING IS CONSIDERED A CRIME. THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STILL HAS PEOPLE BY THE BALLS ON POT? THAT SHIT'S FUCKED UP.'**

# DOLLS

Soul survivors Sylvain Sylvain and David Johansen.

man, he graced it with such beautiful lyrics."

The new album's producer, Jason Hill, helped himself to the vibe of Sylvain's original "closet" demos and then really milked it: The album germinated and got recorded in Newcastle, England, where Sylvain and Johansen did a bit of pre-release test-marketing by doing a club residency for three nights, trying out their new stuff in front of a fiercely loyal but keenly discerning crowd.

"We performed our new songs, and if we screwed up, we would pull like a Jimmy Durante—'Stop the music!' [*laughs*—and then we'd start all over. It was like the Little Rascals onstage, but it gave us the opportunity to play in front of the audience and road-test it."

Is it a hit or is it shit? The English Dolls fans let them know.

"The audience never bullshits to you, especially ours. If they hate it, they fuckin' tell us, and if they like it, they tell us that, too. And I wouldn't have it any other way."

Johansen and Sylvain dish out some incredibly funny, vicious bile of their own in *Dancing's* "I'm So Fabulous," a paean of sorts to the good/bad old days in NYC and how they've earned the right to

tell uppity newcomers to stay the hell away.

"It's a fuckin' great song," Sylvain chortles. "And it's true, we took it from experience: New York used to be our city, and everybody else tells us we should get the fuck outta there, like we don't have enough money to call ourselves New Yorkers or something, you know?"

All this piquant lyricizing comes straight from the big, loud mouth of David Johansen, and it's in the fine old tradition of pithy, pissy diatribes that the Dolls have spewed forth down the years on a variety of subjects they hold dear to their wizened hearts, all the way back to such early "hits" as "Frankenstein" and "Vietnamese Baby."

"We were always militant, and we still are sort of these finger-pointing kind of poets," says Sylvain. "Just like the girl groups, just like the blues, just like Eddie Cochran."

It hasn't been easy, exactly, for the remaining New York Dolls to survive in this cruel, crass, calculating world. In the early days, the band got hassled a lot for their look, their style and their sound—and, of course, they never did make much money at it (or any, come to think of it).

The band's perceived lifestyle of decadent,

each other and they'd think that we had sex together. Nah, we were really, like, women-chasing, pretty normal kinda guys when it came down to it. We wanted to have fun, and we wanted to try *everything*."

Sylvain credits a basic philosophy for his own continued survival: "I believe in reincarnation," he says with a lusty laugh. "But just in case it doesn't hold truth, I'm gonna live my life to the tee!"

These days, Sylvain steers well away from hard drugs and drinking, which so sadly brought an end to his beloved former bandmates. He does, however, firmly advocate a puff on the pipe from time to time to keep the creative juices flowing.

"You know what?" he says. "It's fantastic. It makes you so happy and takes away the mundaneness. And I wish I'd never started drinking, 'cause smoking weed probably would've kept me away from it."

"Marijuana may be a drug, but so is everything else that we consume," he continues. "And it's really sad that we have to live in a time when such a wonderful, positive, good thing is considered a crime. That the federal government still has people by the balls on pot? That shit's fucked up. As a matter of fact, just like what's going on in Egypt and the rest of the Mideast, we should wake up and kick some ass around here." ✨



The Black Lips doing their rendition of "TV Party."

## TAKING THE HIGH ROAD

The Black Lips blaze a trail of song and smoke across the globe. By Nisha Gopalan

In the recesses of a dank warehouse in Bushwick, Brooklyn, the Black Lips are as high as the afternoon sun outside. They're grinning and flailing their skinny limbs about while jumping animatedly on a trampoline. Every so often, a giant stuffed ape or toy pony flies by, causing an eruption of giggles. Given their reputation for drunkenly feuding with other bands (Waves) and hightailing it out of countries for indecent exposure (India), this pastime is refreshingly tame for a foursome who, in reality, are more mischievous than menacing.

The Atlanta-based garage band—Cole Alexander (guitar, vocals), Jared Swilley (bass, vocals), Ian St. Pé (guitar) and Joe Bradley (drums)—is in town to film a video for "New Direction," the sing-along single off their sixth studio album, *Arabia Mountain*. At the heart of the record is the subliminal "Mad Dog," which Alexander calls "high ear-candy" because it can be played backwards. For instance, if you listen to it in reverse, you can hear him inexplicably singing Ke\$ha's "We R Who We R." Alexander swears he was not high when he decided to do this.

Even so, he declares, leaning in, "all our videos are stoner videos!" Alexander cites the hallucinogenic clip for *Arabia*'s previous single, "Modern Art," which they shot while shrooming. "We figured we should do method-acting if the song is about psychedelics," Swilley explains. True, weed is not the Black Lips' only indulgence, but it ends up factoring significantly into the group's tangled lore.

The band broke out with 2007's *Good Bad Not Evil*, which boasted the indie hits "O Kat-

rinal!" and "Bad Kids." But their story actually begins in 1999, when Swilley and Alexander were kicked out of school for smoking and being tardy, respectively. (After he was given the boot, the latter made a point of trashing the teachers' lounge, which earned him a police escort off campus.) With nothing to do, the duo threw themselves into their band, which also included two other musicians. In 2003, the group released a self-titled debut. Then they hit the road.

While driving from Atlanta to Memphis, the Black Lips got lost in Tennessee. "The cops pulled over every car without a state plate," says Swilley. "We got busted pretty bad." The police discovered weed, mushrooms and Xanax in the band's vehicle. After a quick round of rock-paper-scissors, the guys decided that Swilley would take the heat for the marijuana, and Alexander for the other stuff. Hands spread out on the cop car, they somehow charmed the authorities by singing Lynyrd Skynyrd songs and making puns about roaches, and got off with tickets. Ultimately, the charges were dropped due to illegal search and seizure. The lesson learned, says Swilley solemnly: "Don't take more than you can swallow."

These days, the Black Lips rely on the kindness of strangers to score herb on the road, which they usually smoke after performing. They prefer schwag—"It's more mellow, feels more natural," says Alexander—rolled into spliffs. They also discovered dead weed after

one band member's backyard crop dried up while they were on tour. When they returned, they picked the caterpillars out of the plant and smoked it. "It was the craziest, most psychedelic weed," Alexander rhapsodizes. "All the nutrients went straight out."

As avowed globetrotters with a genuine curiosity for other cultures, the Black Lips have toured everywhere from Mexico to Palestine, and they hope soon to play Syria and Iraq. As a result, they bear the distinction of having smoked on almost every continent. "We prefer hash," says Swilley. "I don't get anxiety, and I can still socialize. We get it in Europe—Holland, Spain, France." On the flipside: "India is the worst weed we ever

**THE POLICE DISCOVERED WEED, MUSHROOMS AND XANAX IN THE BAND'S VEHICLE. AFTER A QUICK ROUND OF ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS, THE GUYS DECIDED THAT SWILLEY WOULD TAKE THE HEAT FOR THE MARIJUANA, AND ALEXANDER FOR THE OTHER STUFF.**

smoked," he says, groaning. (This is before they got run out of the Tamil state for stripping onstage and making out with each other.) "We were staying in this small village that was country as fuck. We paid \$4 for four fistfuls rolled

in a newspaper. It was probably a few years old."

International escapades notwithstanding, the Black Lips can report that they actually achieved stoner nirvana in 2009, back in the good ol' US of A. They were in Austin to perform at SXSW with the Wu-Tang Clan's GZA, with whom they were collaborating. Willie Nelson, hearing the rapper was in town, sent his regards—among other things. "Some guy came to the hotel room and said, 'We got Willie weed!'" Swilley recalls. "We never got around to talking about rehearsing; we smoked so much that everyone was just catatonic." The show was a mess and later got panned. But no matter—the Black Lips were too happy to care. ✨



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# BAD REPUTATION

The triumphs and travails of Freedy Johnston. By Chris Parker

**Freedy Johnston** knows he has a “Bad Reputation,” or did at one point. The poppy folk-rocker’s mix of sharp lyricism, strong hooks and a reedy, distinctively Midwestern voice and perspective brought him national attention when he first hit the scene. But Johnston’s commercial success soon faded, and it took him a while to regain his footing. Now he’s out of the ditch and back on the road, more weathered and a little wiser, looking to reclaim the momentum he’s lost since the millennium.

Born in the little town of Kinsley, KS, Johnston set out for New York in 1985 to become a musician. His 1990 debut, *Trouble Tree*, was followed by *Learning to Fly*, recorded with money he got selling off some of the family farm. The album earned critical raves and a record deal from Elektra Records. His first album for them, 1994’s *This Perfect World*, scored a hit with “Bad Reputation” and prompted *Rolling Stone* to name him Songwriter of the Year.

A headstrong fellow, Johnston chafed at the label’s demands for more singles. “My friends said, ‘Freedy, you’re on a big pop label with mostly hip-hop acts—make the most poppy, ABBA-sounding album you can and you’ll be a millionaire,’” Johnston recalls. “They were probably right. Wish I could’ve turned around, swallowed my pride and done that—but, you know, everybody has 20/20 hindsight.”

He’d record three more albums for Elektra to steadily slowing sales before being cut loose after 2001’s wonderful *Right Between the Promises*. It would be nine more years before his next album of studio originals, last year’s *Rain on the City*. In the intervening time, he got married and divorced, co-wrote with Sarah Borges and actress/singer Rebecca Pidgeon, joined the Know-It-All Boyfriends, a cover band with famed producer/Garbage member Butch Vig, and formed the Hobart Brothers & Lil’ Sis Hobart with Jon Dee Graham and Susan

Cowsill. (They’ll release their debut, *At Least We Have Each Other*, in the fall.) What he didn’t seem able to do—despite repeated attempts that began to suggest Axl Rose—was finish his 12th album, *Rain on the City*.

“I was kind of in a creative block,” Johnston says now. “I didn’t really come up in the bar-band world—I was a guy with a four-track—so I had expectations that were absolutely wrong. I thought you get the record advance, you get the house, you get Christie Brinkley and boom! But that’s not how it works. You’re Conway Twitty; you’re going to be dying onstage doing what you love.”

The one thing that remained constant in all that time was his love for Mary Jane. It began with a rebellious Kansas tomboy named Debbie: They’d roar over dusty dirt roads in her ’77 Mercury listening to ZZ Top and getting high. Of course, as a high-school kid in small-town Kansas, pot wasn’t easy to come by.

Freedy and his brother used to beat the brush looking for wild plants left over from local World War II hemp cultivation. But what they found wasn’t pot; it didn’t taste good or get them high, though it did give them headaches. They rolled it anyway, enjoying the ritual of fashioning huge multi-paper fatties from their plentiful stash of worthless weed—until, one day, their father burst into their room and accused them of smoking pot in the house.

“My mother, a little 5-foot-2 firecracker, was livid,” Johnston recalls. “She said, ‘I can’t believe you’re smoking this shit in my house!’ She said, ‘If you kids can smoke this, so can I!’ She was sitting in the kitchen with this 12-inch joint that wasn’t weed and lights up. I’m there in my Aerosmith T-shirt, doubled over laughing. I was like, ‘This is so wrong’—but she was very mad, so I had to leave. The last thing I saw was her puffing away, filling the kitchen with smoke *thinking* she was smoking pot.”

Parents just don’t understand. ✨

## JOHN WILCOCK AND THE UNDERGROUND PRESS MOVEMENT. BY STEVEN HAGER



John Wilcock, king of the underground.

If not for John Wilcock, there might not be a HIGH TIMES. It was Wilcock who invited Tom Forçade to New York. He also co-founded the *Village Voice* and *Interview* magazine and edited the *Witches’ Almanac* for 30 years. His book *The Autobiography and Sex Life of Andy Warhol* was recently reissued by Trela Media. Other than Tom Forçade himself, Wilcock is the most underappreciated founder of the underground press movement.

“I was born in Sheffield, the English equivalent of Pittsburgh,” he recalls. “When I was 18, I became the youngest national reporter in the country. Then I became the night man for the British United Press in Toronto; then I went to work for *Liberty* in New York City. My first interview for *Liberty* was Marilyn Monroe.”

“I was living in Greenwich Village and felt we really needed our own neighborhood paper. Ed Fletcher, Dan Wolf and I started the *Village Voice*. Eventually, I left the *Voice* and joined the *East Village Other*. One day I realized there were only five underground newspapers of any importance and thought, ‘We have a syndicate here.’ We got it started out of *EVO*, but it was too big for them to handle. Then I got a call from this guy in Phoenix, and I ended up saying: ‘Sure, Tom, let’s be partners.’”

“So Forçade set up on West 10th Street and financed everything by going to Bell & Howell and selling the microfilm rights. I was writer-in-residence at the Warhol Factory at the time and persuaded Andy to start *Interview*. I have this vague memory of us sitting around and I passed him a joint and Andy actually took a drag. But I’m not sure ....” ✨

“So Forçade set up on West 10th Street and financed everything by going to Bell & Howell and selling the microfilm rights. I was writer-in-residence at the Warhol Factory at the time and persuaded Andy to start *Interview*. I have this vague memory of us sitting around and I passed him a joint and Andy actually took a drag. But I’m not sure ....” ✨

For more on Wilcock, check out his website at [www.ojaiorange.com](http://www.ojaiorange.com).



John Wilcock (L) with *Village Voice* columnist Bill Manville in 1960.

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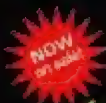
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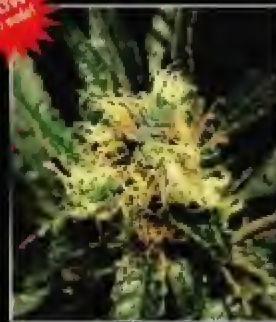
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# THE BUSINESS OF BUD

**Joint Ventures: Inside America's Almost Legal Marijuana Industry**

By Trish Regan

[Wiley]



It's the rare journalist who takes the necessary time and energy to truly understand cannabis culture and business without condescension, preconceived notions or outright ridicule. Trish Regan, creator of the CNBC documentaries *Marijuana, Inc.* and *Marijuana USA*, brings a fiscal perspective to the subject matter, traveling from Denver to the Emerald Triangle of California and all the way to Portugal to research the real facts about marijuana economics without the typical patronizing tone adopted by most reporters from the mainstream press.

A nonsmoker herself, Regan's gaze is unflinching as she dissects the many costs of the War on Drugs as well as the illicit profits it creates on the black market. Along the way, she provides a prescient look into the inevitable near-future of a post-pot-prohibition era from the perspective of the business beat. Regan focuses on the burgeoning income and rising revenue created as growers emerge from the underground, filling up large warehouses with sophisticated cannabis-production facilities.

Regan encounters entrepreneurs of every stripe, from the old-school



Trish Regan on scene.

outdoor farmers of NorCal to newcomers diving into marijuana-related industries for the first time, to established veterans such as Richard Lee and Dale Gieringer. In Portugal, which decriminalized the possession of small amounts of drugs in 2001, she examines the results of a decade of legal use and comes away with a new understanding of the potential "aftermath" of legalization in the US.

Regan's interviews and vivid descriptions provide an in-depth

look at both sides in the War on Pot. She speaks to activists, growers and dealers as well as sheriffs, federal agents and politicians. Examining the case of Chris Bartkowicz in Colorado, Regan notes the discrepancies between the Obama administration's statements and actions, and wonders out loud about the overreach of the federal government in clear-cut cases of states' rights. Even the law-enforcement officials she speaks with seem resigned to the fact that marijuana is here to stay.

Making an economic argument in favor of ending pot prohibition and creating a legitimate multibillion-dollar domestic cannabis industry, Regan ultimately concludes: "I do hope [this book] raises awareness that attitudes towards marijuana are changing at an amazing rate, that state and federal policies are confusing and typically in conflict, and that marijuana is subjected to a moral standard that alcohol and tobacco have somehow managed to escape." —Danny Danko

## BORIS

*Attention Please/Heavy Rocks*

(Sargent House)



Two simultaneously released new records by Boris exhibit the Japanese arty metal crew's radical mess-arounds with genres seemingly numbering in the dozens. It's a typically atypical display from this proudly schizoid crew, which has never claimed to truly understand the heavy sounds they explore, their idea being that getting it all "wrong" will invariably lead to amazing new discoveries. The band's current mutated fascinations fly ever further away from the ostensibly "metal" or hard-rock roots from which they grew on the moody *Attention Please*, replete with an after-closing disco decadence of wasted robot beats and insinuating synth coils. Its heaviness is largely implied in highly melodicized tunes that feature the wistful but unintelligible vocal emissions of guitarist Wata. On "Party Boy," Wata's vocal coo darts in and out of buzzy synths atop distorted bass slabs and a thumping four-to-the-floor. The band's newfound melodic grace shines on "See You Next Week" and "Tokyo Wonder Land," despite the subtly insistent scree of e-guitar and about a thousand obscure wisps of electronic sound.

Boris has also co-released *Heavy Rocks*, a companion piece/updating of the album by the same name from 2002. As the title semi-jokingly indicates, you get the far more brontosaurus-stomp side of the band here. Tracks like "Riot Sugar" and "Leak-Truth, yesnoyesnoyes" do battle with low-end head-bang and out-and-out noise, from doomy sludge to Deep Purple-esque mini-epics to that Metallica-esque thrash nigh unto classic hard rock. —John Payne



## LOVE

*Black Beauty*

(Half Moon Records)

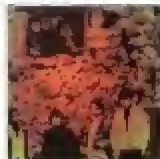


Though oft-bootlegged, Love's *Black Beauty* is now finally available on remastered disc, vinyl and download. Intended for release back in 1973, *Black Beauty* never saw the light of day because the label that was planning to release it, Buffalo Records (headed by Hair producer Michael Butler), went extinct first.

Bandleader Arthur Lee had already recorded three baroque masterpieces with Love's first edition (including *Forever Changes*), then three more solid senders with a leaner, meaner crew. In 1971, Love was signed to Columbia, but too much fun in the studio produced tracks too loose for fussy corporate tastes, and those sessions weren't released until 2009 as *Love Lost*. Some of those same songs (though in different renditions) ended up on Lee's solo *Vindicator*; others are here on the sublime *Beauty*. The rockers include the bursting "Product of the Times," shouter showcase "Midnight Sun" and the snaky "Good & Evil." The joyful calypso of "Beep Beep" and the jug-pop of Gus Cannon's "Walk Right In" add some eclectic fun to the proceedings.

Lee clearly took these sessions a lot more seriously than the ones on *Love Lost*: Not only is he singing his ass off, but this edition of Love was a tight quartet of "brothers" in the vernacular sense of the term (hence the album's title). Lead guitarist Melvan Whittington, in particular, shines with fluid solos that sway from ferocious to lyrical.

That Lee was rewarded for his considerable efforts here with an out-of-biz record company is a cruel twist of fate. He split this mortal reality in aught-six, but he'd be one happy overlooked genius to know that, nearly 40 years later, *Black Beauty* is back. —Michael Simmons



## RAZORBLADE HANDGRENADE

*Tales From the Bricks*

(RBHG)



For Newark's Razorblade Handgrenade, hardcore is more than a genre of music—it's a way of life. Even in this day and age when the girl who works the register at 7-Eleven is likely to have pink hair, RBHG frontman Wes Nihil strikes an imposing figure. Inked from the top of his head on down with tattoos, he's responsible, almost single-handedly, for putting Brick City Hardcore (BCHC) on the map.

On *Tales From the Bricks*, their second album, RBHG recall the best of mid-80's New York Hardcore bands like Cro-Mags and Agnostic Front, as well as metal-tinged Los Angeles outfits of the same era like Suicidal Tendencies. Whether skanking though the spiritually charged creepy-crawler "Page 472" or unleashing kick-drum-heavy thrashers such as "My Set" and "Revolutionary Strike," RBHG stay true to their roots, musically and philosophically. Themes of unity, family and survival appear throughout *Tales From the Bricks*, as Wes Nihil describes life in a town that has the dubious distinction of appearing year after year on the annual "Most Dangerous Cities in America" list.

Things get especially interesting toward the end, when the rhythm section starts playing around with odd time signatures on "You See Me Stack" and "Rob the Joint." The epic "Days On End" brings things to a cathartic close, and then you even get a cameo appearance by Black Flag/Misfits singer Dez Cadena. Fans of old-school NYHC will dig RBHG: They're loud, fast and brutally honest. —Chris Simunek



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# THE WACO OF WEED

How a marijuana bust impacted the Rainbow Farm. By Steven Hager

Tom Crosslin and Rollie Rohm in happier times.



On September 11, 2001, I was riding my motorcycle to the HIGH TIMES office when I caught sight of smoke billowing out of one of the Twin Towers. I went straight to the roof to shoot some video and then returned to check my email and phone messages. I'd received several voice mails over the weekend from Tom Crosslin of the Rainbow Farm Campground in Michigan, each one escalating in emotion. Tom always called me at the office when he wanted to talk. Unfortunately, I soon discovered that I didn't need to call Tom back, since he and his partner, Rollie Rohm, had been shot dead by law enforcement over the weekend. I got a triple whammy that day, and this is actually the first time I've written about it.

I became a cannabis activist in 1988 and met a lot of kindred spirits on the mission trail over the last 23 years. A serious problem quickly developed, however, in that so many of them have been railroaded into jail, with serious assets seized through forfeiture—a list that includes Rodger Belknap, Todd McCormick and Gideon Israel, among others. But nothing comes close to what our Drug War did to Tom and Rollie.

Tom was the most generous person I've ever met. I didn't really discover how generous until I read *Burning Rainbow Farm* by Dean Kuipers. Rollie had a son named Robert; when Tom discovered that not all of the kids in Robert's fifth-grade class could afford hot lunches, he secretly paid for everyone. That's the way Tom did his philanthropy. Although Robert was Rollie's son, Tom loved that kid as much as Rollie, and they were doing a fantastic job raising him. Robert was a dedicated worker at the campground, driving his own golf cart, doing the work of two adults.

Rainbow Farm became the center of gravity for the legalization

movement in Michigan. That's when the local prosecutor went on a vendetta to close it.

After years of surveillance, the authorities used an income-tax investigation as an excuse to search the house, where a growroom was discovered in the basement. Robert was seized and put into foster care.

Tom and Rollie went crazy over the next few months without Robert, and got even crazier the more the prosecutor tweaked them with new litigation. They eventually decided to burn everything on the farm down and go out in a blaze of glory defending their constitutional rights.

I guess in their minds, the publicity was going to help legalize marijuana. It's been hard to shake the ache of knowing I'm probably one of the few people who might have been able to talk them out of an insane mission.

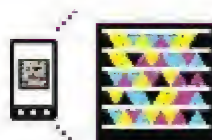
I miss those guys and wish Robert well. After a year in foster care, his grandparents were allowed to take him back. He's in his twenties now and enrolled in a Christian college.

But the publicity that Tom and Rollie thought was guaranteed? That never materialized, as their story was crushed by coverage of the 9/11 hijackings and the emerging War on Terror. Few people in America have ever heard of Rainbow Farm.

Oh, and about the other events that day? The Internet research sites were instantly filled with the tinfoil-hat brigades spreading a cloud of mud over the facts. I witnessed the emergence of a "no planes" disinfo campaign, followed by a "truth" movement embedded with spooks.

I piled my family into a car soon after and drove a hundred miles north. I didn't let any of them come back for months, knowing the air in Manhattan was unsafe despite the city telling us quite the opposite. ✨

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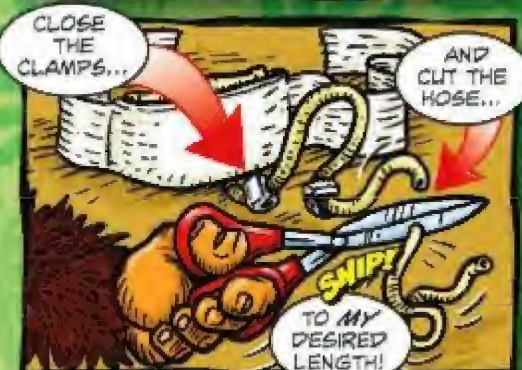
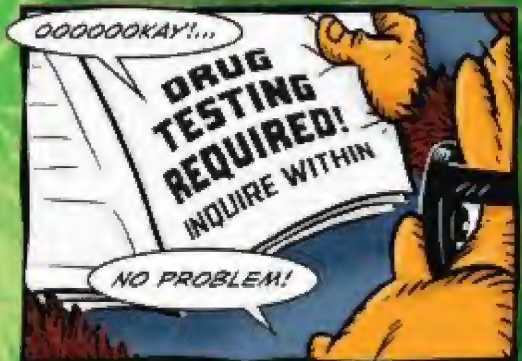
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## HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND OF THE MONTH MEDIUM TROY

Medium Troy hails from the hometown of homegrown, Eugene, OR. The group plays a unique, DIY style of music they've labeled "Bohemian Dub"—a musical style built on huge, fat bass, psychedelic dub reggae, alt-rock song structures, glitch-hop and dubstep, smooth, catchy hooks, funk and jazz elements, pop-production sensibilities and witty, honest lyrics for conscious party people. Basically, Medium Troy takes all the best parts of all the best music, condenses them into a perfect blend, and serves it straight up.

Medium Troy has a diverse live show featuring a wide range of instruments, including bass, guitars, drum kit, keys, synthesizers, samplers, electronic drums, turntables, saxophone and a variety of special guest artists. Troy is expanding their live show by incorporating DJ-manipulated visuals and digital-projector mapping. Past shows have featured fire dancers, circus performers, belly dancers, live painters, a variety of solo instrumentalists, various singers and several different MCs—in fact, hip-hop sensation Macklemore performed live with Medium Troy at the Oregon Country Fair in 2010.

Catch Medium Troy out on the road this summer on the West Coast at the Cosmic Garden Gathering, Tayberry Jam and Burning Man.

For more information, including tour dates and audio samples, check out [hightimes.com/mediumtroy](http://hightimes.com/mediumtroy).

**MISS SEPTEMBER**  
NAME: Deanna Lynn AGE: 22  
PROFILE: *oxbrainxdamagex*  
OCCUPATION: Cashier  
CITY: Battle Creek, MI



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BY BOBBY BLACK

Lionize singer  
Nate Bergman.



The hipster hordes had already begun to amass when I arrived outside the House of Vans by the Williamsburg waterfront in Brooklyn for the 2011 Warped Tour kickoff party. The publicist's email requested that press arrive at 5:30, but after 40 minutes of waiting out in the cold, the natives were growing restless. Me? I just shot a quick text to my boy Nate from Lionize—who were one of the featured performers that night—and he came right out to get me.

Nate and I first became buddies in Austin in March 2010, when Lionize played our SXSW party and won the Doobie award for Best Reggae Artist. I saw a lot of bands perform that week, but none with the raw soul, rippin' solos or bone-bending groove of Lionize. With their unlikely blend of reggae rhythms and stoner rock sensibilities, it's easy to see why they were tapped not only for this year's Warped Tour but the Bonnaroo festival as well.

As I was escorted inside, a security guard directed me to the press check-in, where I was given a black-and-white checkered wristband. "Here," said Nate, handing me a second wristband—a green plastic one marked "VIP"—"you'll need this too." With that, we made a beeline for the green room backstage, where we joined the rest of the band and headed out back for a smoke.

By the time we went back in, the club was mobbed. I grabbed a complimentary Pabst Blue Ribbon from the front bar, made my way into the main room and headed toward the bowl, where all the action was. But as I was about to ascend the stairs, I was stopped by some rockabilly chick with a clipboard.

"Excuse me—you can't go up there unless you sign a waiver," she said. After laying down my John Hancock, Punky Brewster slapped a third bracelet on my wrist—a sparkly gold one this time.

The pool was swimming with skateboarders, some of them local kids and some of them seasoned pro shredders like Christian Hosoi and Steve Alba, who—and I mean no disrespect—had to be pushing 50. Watching these graying, middle-aged dudes kickin' it with a bunch of kids half their age brought on a bit of unexpected self-reflection: White hairs had, of late, begun to invade my beard; I was a mere few months away from getting married; and that very night, at midnight, I'd be turning 38. All at once, my Peter Pan bubble popped and the undeniable reality hit me like a kick-flip to the head: *I was getting old*. I decided to drown my self-

# WARPED IN WILLIAMSBURG

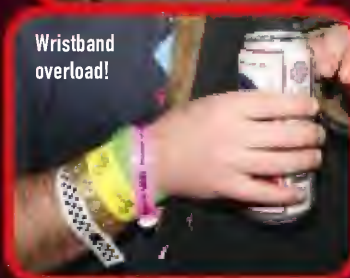
Steve Alba hits the bowl.



Skate legends  
Christian  
Hosoi and  
Harry Jumontji.



Wristband  
overload!



pitch in another tallboy and headed down to the back bar, where a cute young hipsterette behind the counter asked to see my wristband.

"Take your pick, darlin'," I retorted, baring my wrist.

"No, not those," she informed me, "you need a pink wristband to drink." "Another wristband?" I barked. "You've got to be kidding me. I've been here drinking for like three hours now, and no one's asked to see any pink wristband."

"I'm sorry, but I can't serve you until you go back

to the entrance and get a pink wristband that proves you're over 21." Oh, sweet irony.

"Look at me, honey—I've been drinking for longer than you've been alive. You're not seriously going to make me go all the way back there, are you? Just give me a beer."

"I'm sorry, I can't ... I could lose my job."

Grudgingly, I fought my way through the swarming sea of flannel and fauxhawks and back to the entrance, where I acquired the accursed pink wristband and another beer. By the time I found my way back to my fiancée and friends, the show had already started. As if to add insult to insecurity, the first band on the bill were the School of Rock All-Stars—literally a bunch of high-school kids. In fact, out of the 100-plus bands on this year's tour, I'd only heard of eight. I was feeling down about being so out of touch, until I remembered something my dad once told me when I tried to turn him on to heavy metal.

"This is *your* music," he said. "I'm not supposed to like it ... just like my father didn't like the Beatles. Just like *you* won't like *your* son's music someday."

The reason I didn't know about all these bands is that the Warped Tour isn't for me—it's for the youth. I hadn't grown old; I'd just grown up. And accepting that I'd reached the next stage of my life wasn't a surrender—it was a victory. I might not be a kid anymore, but as long as I kept true to myself—like those skaters—I'd always be cool.

When Lionize took the stage, I busted out my air guitar and let the hair fly. And when the clock struck midnight, I fired up a bowl in celebration: I knew exactly who I was, where I'd been, and where I was headed. What that fifth yellow wristband was for and where it came from, though, I'll probably never know .... ✨





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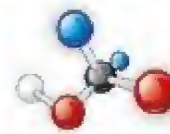
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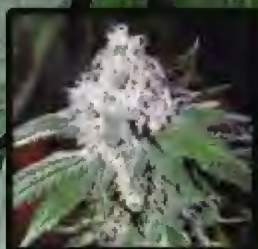
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British Columbian



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Read about VISC's Induction into The Seed Bank HALL OF FAME in the August 2009 issue of High Times

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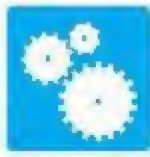
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PRESENTING THE HIGH TIMES CULTIVATION DEPARTMENT'S YEARLY ROUNDUP OF THE BEST MARIJUANA-GROWING GEAR, THE S.T.A.S.H. AWARDS (FOR SIGNIFICANT TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN SECRETIVE HORTICULTURE), HIGHLIGHTING THE LATEST INNOVATIONS IN CANNABIS-PRODUCTION PRODUCTS THAT ALLOW INDOOR AND OUTDOOR POT FARMERS TO HARVEST MORE BUDS WHILE DOING LESS WORK.

## Best Small Grow Box

### Kitchen Cultivator

You may have looked at one of those kitchen wine-bottle coolers and thought, "I could turn that into a grow box!" Urban Cultivator, an offshoot of BC Northern Lights, has beaten you to the punch with the **Kitchen Cultivator**, a counter-height aeroponics unit that looks at home right alongside your stove or dishwasher. Sure, you could use it to grow parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme, but the removable-rack design is perfect for maturing cannabis cuttings into beautiful buds. Four standard 12-inch 6400K T5 lights provide the artificial sun-juice to each compartment. With the shelf removed, the Kitchen Cultivator sustains plants up to 2 feet tall. The unit can even be hooked up to your tap like a dishwasher and set to automatically flush and top off its aeration reservoir, while the chopping-block top means that your homegrown herb can go from grow pot to crock-pot (or pot pipe) in one motion.

*Price: \$2200*

*Contact: Urban Cultivator, 877-352-0490, [urbancultivator.net](http://urbancultivator.net)*



## Best Budget Grow Box

### SuperDeluxe 2.0 Tax Return Special

#### SuperCloset

The name says it all: Turn the proceeds of your tax refund into an unlimited supply of pot! This 24" x 36" x 72" closet made of "infra-cool" steel houses a Superponics 2.0 Hydro System that holds up to 16 flowering plants. Dimmable Lumatek fixtures support the 250- to 400-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) bulbs, which are cooled by air exhausted through a charcoal filter. A lighted lower chamber contains a cloning tray for perpetual harvest, meaning you need never be without weed again. The **SuperCloset SuperDeluxe 2.0** also comes with a three-year warranty, starter nutrients, a pH test kit and instructional DVD. Now that the taxman's off your ass, isn't it time your return produced some returns of its own by way of sticky, homegrown bud?

*Price: \$2,395*

*Contact: Supercloset, 877-476-9787, [supercloset.com](http://supercloset.com)*

## Best New Lighting Innovation

### GAVITA Pro Line Electronic/Digital Fixtures

The GAVITA Pro 1000 DE and HortiStar 1000 DE are the first fixtures to house Philips GreenPower EL double-ended 1,000-watt bulbs. These fixtures not only hold the unique bulb, which has dual wire ends that clamp into sockets, but also run with the Pro 1000 electronic ballasts, allowing these prized 400-volt bulbs to operate on a 240-volt current. The Pro 1000 DE comes with the conversion ballast attached, while the HortiStar is constructed to work with the ballast remotely. Both are sold with a ballast that converts the 240-volt current to work with the 400-volt bulbs and is adjustable to 600, 660, 750, 825, 1,000 or 1,150 watts (using the same 1,000-watt bulb).

The Philips bulbs that work with these lamps are only the second set of true electronic/digital bulbs to hit the market, following the SunPulse bulbs featured here in last year's S.T.A.S.H. Awards (Sept. '10 HT). With improved spectrum and the highest PAR (photosynthetically active radiation) available to date (retaining >95% of its PAR over one year of use), these bulbs produce some of the strongest light from a high-intensity discharge (HID) bulb.

What's more, Philips has (almost secretly) been manufacturing electronic/digital bulbs for over seven years! The problem was that these bulbs are industrial-grade and were produced solely for the big-time agricultural greenhouses of Holland, which run 400-volt current—something most cannabis growers aren't equipped to handle. Luckily for us, those days are over thanks to GAVITA!

*Price: Full-fixture set with attached ballast, bulb and reflector, \$650; remote-ballast set with bulb and reflector, \$690*

*Contact: Gavita-Holland.com or call +31(0)297 380450*

## Best Watering Management System

### Uni-Flow Drip Irrigation Kit

Science shows that plants benefit in many ways from a controlled environment tailored to their needs, and indoor growing is the best way to ensure your crop gets the perfect dose of light, food and water. A proper supply of the latter two elements is crucial to the overall health, uninterrupted growth and consistent quality of your batch of buds. The **Uni-Flow Drip Irrigation Kit** is designed to deliver a uniform measure of water and nutrients within a tablespoon's margin of error, meaning no more stunted plants due to over- or underwatering. The system comes in a number of configurations depending on the dimensions of your tray and can be customized to accommodate four to 32 plants. Each kit includes a manifold constructed of sturdy Schedule 40 PVC, connection grommets, hose fittings and 6-inch stakes. The Uni-Flow system is also useful in outdoor gardens to automate watering and feeding when Mother Nature can't come through.

*Price: \$22 to \$45, excluding pump and accessories*  
*Contact: Uni-Flow, 888-924-4769, westcoastgrowers.com*



This all-in-one combo will provide plenty of pot in a relatively small space.

**Best New Horticulture Bulbs**

**Philips Son-T PIA GreenPower Electronic/Digital Bulb**

After searching high and low for a new bulb manufacturer (other than electronic/digital bulb pioneer SunPulse) that could help fill the never-ending industry demand for bulbs that are *truly* compatible with today's electronic and digital ballasts, we've found out that such a company does exist—and it's Philips!

These bulbs are traditional HPS screw-ins that work with lower voltages for North America (240v). These electronic bulbs are available from Philips in a 600-watt bulb and burn at a color temperature of over 2,000°K (Kelvin). They utilize a patented PIA (Philips Integrated Antenna) ceramic discharge tube to fire the interior, resulting in longer bulb life. These specially designed bulbs eliminate the problem of acoustic resonance that occurs when any standard HID bulb is used in conjunction with today's electronic/digital ballasts. This problem generally shortens the life of a bulb by one-third to one-half its normal span, but these bulbs won't rupture or fade due to incompatibility. The bulbs work only on standard 240v electronic and digital ballasts.

*Price: Varies by product and size*

*Contact: Gavita-Holland.com or call +31(0)297 380450*



**Best Reverse-Osmosis Machine**

**Tap Master Artesian HydroGardener Pro Remineralizing R.O. Water Filtration System**

We may not know how the chemicals in our tap water affect our overall health, but we do know they can cause stunted, pale and disease-susceptible pot plants. A reverse-osmosis membrane is still the best way to remove heavy molecules from water, but the **Tap Master Artesian HydroGardener Pro** takes it to a whole new level by returning beneficial minerals after they've been filtered out. The first step removes 99% of chlorine and chemicals and 93% of dissolved solids. The HydroGardener Pro then adds 15 to 30 ppm of calcium and magnesium to the pure water, leaving you with a slightly acidic mineral water that will make your plants strong to the finish. The included iron-removal filter makes this system suitable for both well and municipal water supplies.

*Price: \$335.95*

*Contact: Perfect Water Technologies, 877-693-PURE (7873), theperfectwater.com*



**Best Indoor/Outdoor Growing Containers**

**19-Inch Self-Watering Buckets 420 Grow Systems**

The only way to grow massive pot plants is to encourage root growth, and the best way to build up an impressive root system is to plant your trees in large containers. These self-watering buckets from **420 Grow Systems** are 19 inches in diameter and hold 15 gallons of soil mix, so you'll need to incorporate a longer vegetative time to develop your monster bud bushes. A reservoir in the bottom of the bucket stores nutrient solution that can be drawn up via capillary action by the roots as they need it, while drainage holes make overwatering impossible. The watering tube extends down into the reservoir, allowing growers to bottom-feed as necessary, eliminating moisture loss through evaporation, and keeping the top few inches of mix from getting too soggy. These buckets are also perfect for keeping mother plants alive and thriving for years. Use the included dipstick to check the level of water in the reservoir and watch your plant growth explode!

*Price: \$50*

*Contact: 420 Grow Systems, 877-563-5632, 420growsystem.com*

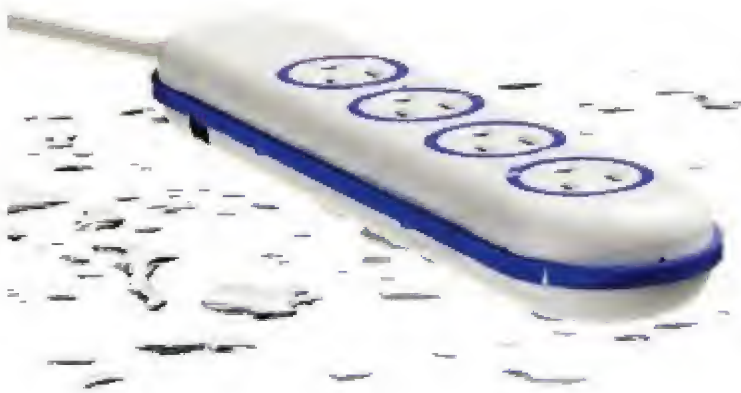
**Best Electric Innovation**

**Wet Circuits Super Safe Power Strip**

When a power strip carries a \$70 price tag, it better continue working when doused with a pitcher of water. While we weren't too keen to try it ourselves, independent video demonstrations posted online by braver souls show that the **Wet Circuits Super Safe Power Strip** does just that. In addition to the usual surge protection and circuit breakers you expect from a regular power strip, this four-outlet job can be submerged in a bucket of water without frying out, making it ideally suited for the moist growroom environment. Additionally, it's safe for use if you have children or pets around. It also prevents carbon buildup on the contacts that can cause sparks, and it shuts off when temperatures reach 212°F. Given that a few misplaced drops of water can mean a burned-out power cord at best and a five-alarm blaze at worst, the peace of mind that comes with this device is well worth the price.

*Price: \$70*

*Contact: Wet Circuits, wetcircuits.com*



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### Best Full Grow Tent Package

#### The Secret Jardin

Thanks to federal policy, NASA technology is publicly available, and pot growers have capitalized on this by creating some pretty sick space-age grow tents. **Monster Garden's Secret Jardin** is straight off a page of *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Both lightproof and waterproof, this indoor growing chamber is a solid-frame tent that comes complete with lighting and ventilation installed. The heavy-duty PVC tents are available in a number of footprints, from 2' x 4' to a whopping 10' x 10' collapsible growroom. Each one is lined with 95 percent hammered-effect Mylar cloth, which acts as both a reflective material and a barrier to the toxic phthalates found in most PVC materials. There are over 20 different packages to choose from, configurable to your preference in lighting. Unlike some kits, these come with everything you need to start growing out of the box, including Quantum ballast, bulbs, digital timers, fan, 25 feet of ducting and a roll of tape. And with Monster Grow's discreet shipping, not even your mailman will know what you plan to grow.

*Price: Varies by product and size.*

*See website for complete pricing info.*

*Contact: Monster Gardens, 855-476-9272, [Monstergardens.com](http://Monstergardens.com)*

### Best LED Lighting

#### SOL (Spectrum-Optimized LED)

Home Grow Depot

As LED (light-emitting diode) technology improves and more testing is done using these lights to grow medical marijuana, new products are coming out that rival smaller-wattage HID lighting. The new **SOL LED** from Home Grow Depot was developed with a seven-spectrum, 288-diode board using the latest 3-watt high-output chips. In other words: This thing is bright! The advantages of LED lighting include less electricity consumption and lower levels of heat, as well as the added benefit of stacking nodes fairly tightly during the vegetative-growth stage in particular. Although we still recommend using LEDs primarily for vegetative growth or supplemental lighting, early indications show progress in optimizing spectrums, and these SOL lights are at the forefront of those advances.

*Price: \$995.99*

*Contact: Home Grow Depot, 877-821-GROW (4769), [homegrowdepot.com](http://homegrowdepot.com) or [MaineIndoorGardenSupply.com](http://MaineIndoorGardenSupply.com),*



### Best Lighting Controllers

#### Powerbox

Faulty lighting controllers and cheap, defective timers can ruin much more than just a harvest. Avoid the unthinkable by investing in **Powerbox** units specially built to withstand heavy-duty power loads. With a dozen models to choose from, every grower can increase peace of mind and decrease the electricity bill. The various controller models—some customized with hot-start delays and digital ammeters—are hand-built in California, and almost all of them are ETL-listed for use in the United States and Canada. The Flipboxes allow growers to run two lights from one ballast in separate areas on opposite 12/12 lighting cycles, while the larger units power 12 lights from six ballasts and even 20 lights from 10 ballasts! A five-year warranty on all products ensures you'll get your money's worth.

*Price: Varies by product and size.*

*See website for complete pricing info.*

*Contact: Powerbox Inc., 818-787-4464, [powerboxinc.com](http://powerboxinc.com)*





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**Best Indoor Stealth Device**

**Swann DVR-2600 with Smartphone Viewing and Four CCD Cameras**

Let's face it—if you grow weed, you have to look out for “interested parties” like poachers, cops and Feds. Wouldn't it be nice to glance at the screen of your cell phone and know your growroom is safe?

Swann Security's DVR-2600 has all your angles covered with four closed-circuit digital cameras beaming real-time video straight to your smartphone. A central digital-video unit comes pre-installed with 500 gigabytes of memory, which means you're able to record up to 120 days before reaching capacity. Four professional-quality PRO-580 cameras can be mounted easily to the corners of your ceiling or concealed for discreet observation. All four cameras can be viewed simultaneously or individually from anywhere in the world via the Web or a 3G-connected cell phone. Advanced motion-detection recording saves memory and allows you to search footage by events that trigger the cameras' sensors. You have full control over your choice of video resolution, frame rate and compression, and you can even have an email alert sent to you any time activity is detected. And with a little coaxing, maybe it will friend you on Facebook.

Price: \$449.99

Contact: Swann Security, swann.com



**Best Hashish Extraction Tumbler**

**APE (Agricultural Pollen Extractor) 2.0**

You can't get closer to pure THC than kief—those super-potent particles comprising the stuff that gets us high. What's more, these crystals coat not only the buds you smoke, but the smaller leaves that you trim from harvested cones. The Agricultural Pollen Extractor, or APE, first came on the market in 2009, and this year DAC Solutions has tweaked its already efficient design to offer the best kief tumbler available, backed up by a two-year warranty. The APE 2.0 works just like a laundry dryer—except imagine that your clothes were covered in trichomes and that, at the end of the cycle, you could clear the lint trap and make hashish! Buds and leaf trim are tumbled in a cylindrical drum with a 180- to 200-micron mesh, which the crystals of concentrated THC pass directly through. A new and improved octagonal-shaped cylinder increases agitation of the plant materials, meaning more kief shakes loose for your hash. A polished aluminum and plexiglass case houses the tumbler, and the kief collects on a tray of tempered glass for easy cleaning. Process up to 160 grams of pot at a time into tasty, naturally extracted hashish.

Price: \$499.99

Contact: DAC Solutions, agriculturalpollenextractor.com



**Best Drying Rack**

**The Six-Tiered Quick-Cure Drying Rack**

So you've planted the seeds, nurtured the plants and trimmed the buds to perfect little nuggets—but a poorly executed drying process can send all that effort straight to the compost bin. Without a well-ventilated drying rack, your weed harvest becomes a garden for mold and fungus. HID Hut has found a simple, cheap and effective solution with the Six-Tiered Drying Rack. The 6-foot-tall hanging mesh cylinder fits easily into a closet for stealth harvesting and collapses to just 4 inches thick, including a handy carrying case for growers on the go. Each shelf is 35 inches in diameter, and up to four can be removed at a time, giving your buds as much or as little breathing room as they need. The mesh design allows ample air, preventing mold and bud rot during the drying stage. And this rack is completely encloseable, meaning your stash stays put even in the direct breeze of a fan.

Price: \$29.99

Contact: HID Hut, 866-678-8565, hidhut.com

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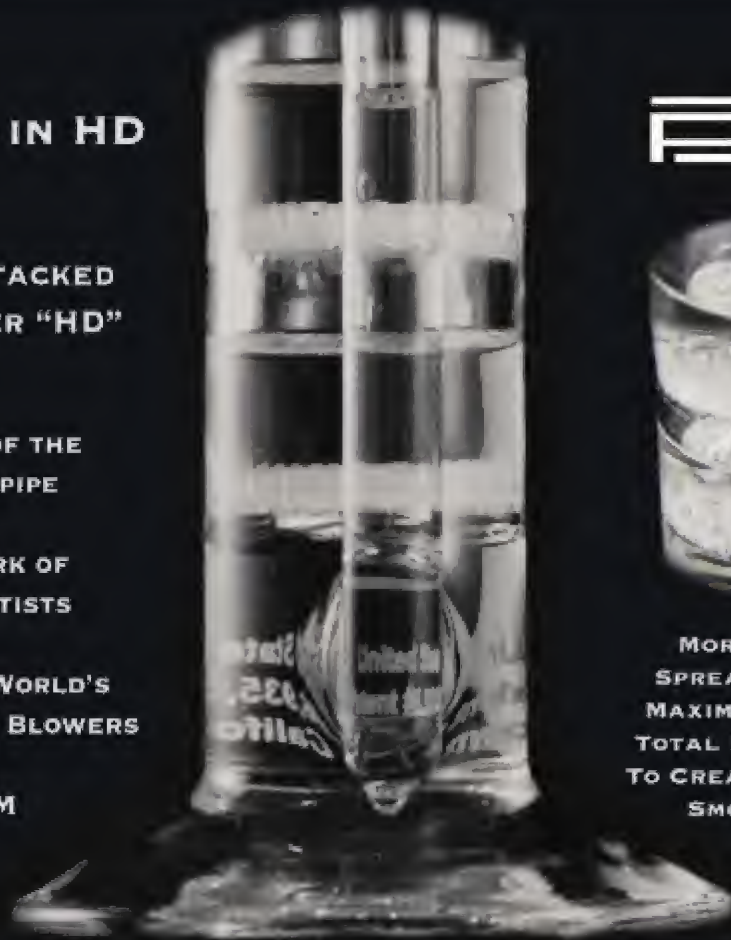
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### Best New Synthetic Nutrient Line

#### Pure Essentials Black Label

Unlike other nutrient brands, Pure Essentials Black Label is hand-crafted in small batches. Just like the finer spirits we drink, our cannabis plants deserve the same quality and consistency in their essential elements. Black Label is a premium hydroponic nutrient that is brewed sourcing ingredients from only the most discerning suppliers. Utilization of a specialized, heat-treating technology affords the ability to filter water from natural resources and ensure that it's free of pathogens and bacteria.

Pure Essentials Black Label is not only specifically designed as a single source for all essential macro- and micro-elements, but it's also simple to use, with mild two-part veg and bud components that are easy to mix and apply (all Black Label nutrients come with complete mixing schedules for both soil and hydro mediums). With an average savings of 20 percent over the most competitive nutrient lines, Black Label is blended to work compatibly with all other leading plant supplements on the market. Don't forget to check out both the Root Enhancer and Bud Enhancer supplements that complement the Black Label line as well.

*Price: Varies by product and size. See website for complete pricing info.*

*Contact: Pure Essentials Black Label, [pureessentialsblacklabel.com](http://pureessentialsblacklabel.com)*



### Best Veganic Nutrient Line

#### Canna

For centuries, farmers have relied on bonemeal, bloodmeal and fish emulsion for the nutrients plants need to grow best, but these sources require that we sacrifice whole populations of animals to feed our love of bud. It only makes sense that the worlds of plant science, sustainable living and ethical thinking would converge in the world of cannabis cultivation at an intersection called "vegan organics," or *veganics*. The Dutch experts at **Canna** have been cranking out high-quality fertilizers for over 30 years, and now they've branched out to meet the growing demand for nutrients not derived from animals. BioVega, BioFlores and BioBoost are 100 percent vegetable-based, meaning no animals were harmed in the making of your weed. Canna's veganic compounds also promise to be free of animal pathogens, so you won't be coughing from the flu—just that gigantic hit you took.

*Price: Varies by product and size. See website for complete pricing info.*

*Contact: Hydro Wholesale, 866-803-2100, [hydrowholesale.com](http://hydrowholesale.com)*



### Best Organic Nutrient Line

#### General Organics

Organic agricultural methods are quickly overtaking chemical fertilizers and pesticides as the preferred way to raise cannabis, and it's always nice to know that the stuff you're smoking came from all-natural ingredients. **General Organics** derives all the ingredients for its line of bio nutrients from natural sources like kelp, alfalfa, enzymatically digested fish and mineral extraction.

BioThrive Grow is a 4-3-3 composition for the vegetative stage, while BioThrive Bloom ratchets down the nitrogen and boosts potash and phosphorus when it's time for your buds to pop. BioBud puts the icing on the cake, promising "a more bountiful harvest with superior flavor and aroma." BioRoot and BioWeed target growth at the ground level, promoting vigorous root and stem development for seedlings, cuttings and plants at all stages of life. The GO line also includes CaMg+, for soils low in calcium and magnesium, and Diamond Black, a nutrient-absorption activator derived from carbon-rich Leonardite.

*Price: Varies by product and size. See website for complete pricing info.*

*Contact: General Hydroponics, 1-800-37-HYDRO, [genhydro.com](http://genhydro.com)*



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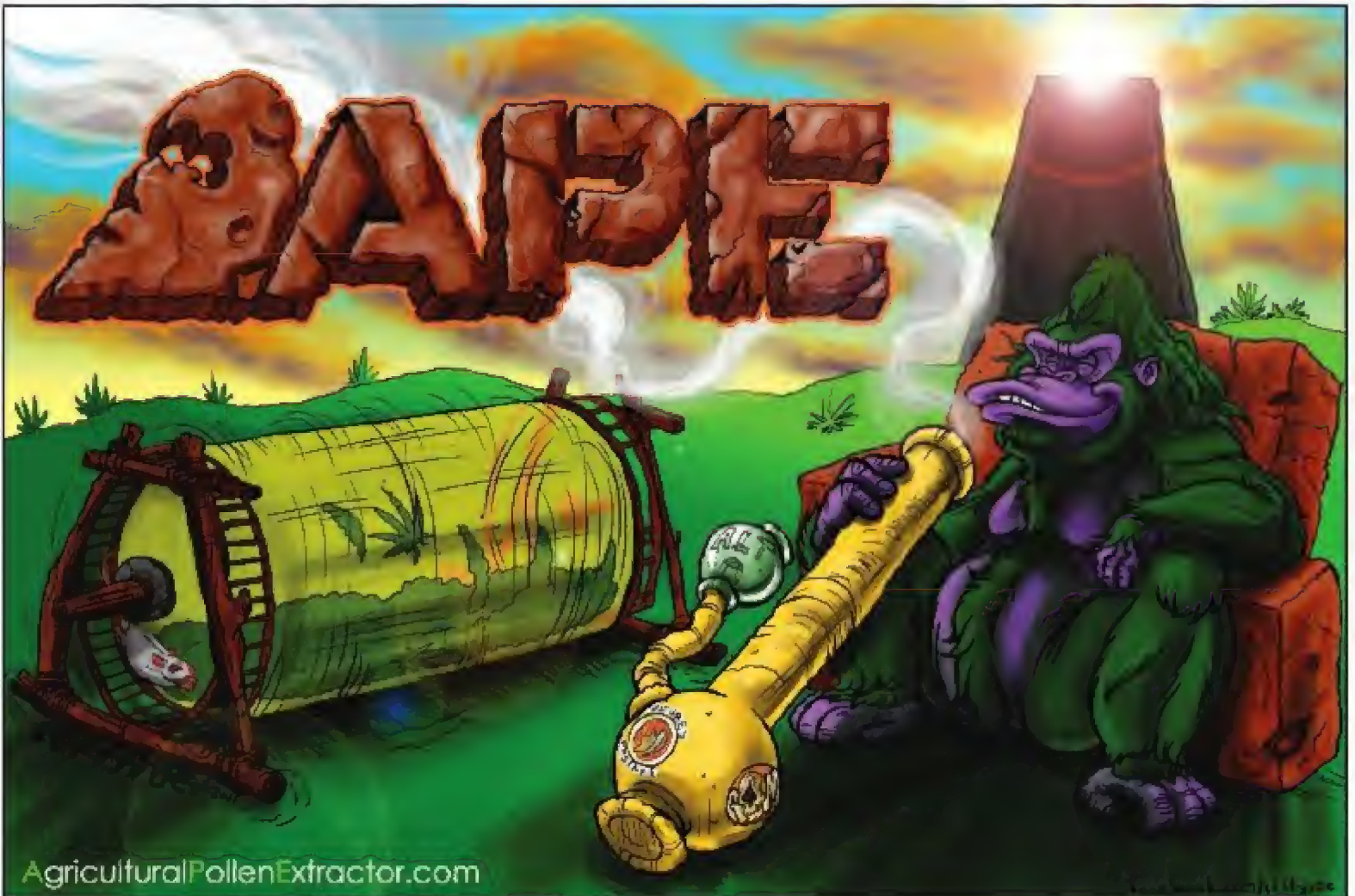
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**Best DWC Hydroponic System**

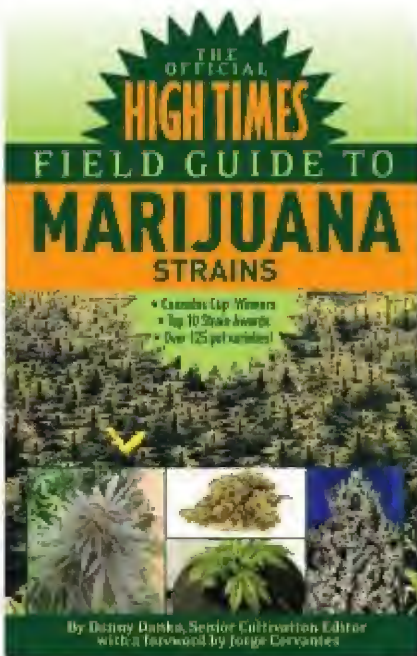
**Five-Bucket Recirculating Deep Water Culture System**

You no longer need to be a plant scientist to grow marijuana in water, and nowadays the home-gardening industry has made it easier than ever to replicate the best techniques of horticulturists in the convenience of your own closet. Deep-water culture (DWC) represents decades of research into how to supercharge the growth time of vegetables using oxygenation, which readily applies

to the practice of growing pot. Ideally suited to a 4' x 4' grow tent, HID Hut's **Five-Bucket Recirculating DWC Kit** comes with everything you need to start growing—just add cannabis! Sturdy 2-inch PVC pipes connect each 5-gallon bucket, while a network of hoses and pumps keeps the proper levels of nutrients and water circulating over your crops' roots. The plants are suspended in 5-inch net pots, and high-quality Alita air stones infuse the solution with oxygen, giving you record buds in record time. Best of all, HID Hut will customize the kit to meet your specifications, pre-sizing all pipes and hoses, so setup is a breeze.

Price: \$325

Contact: HID Hut, 866-678-8565, hidhut.com



**Best New Grower's Resource**

**The Official HIGH TIMES Field Guide to Marijuana Strains by Danny Danko**

This is the ultimate guide for pot aficionados of every stripe, from the cannabis connoisseur to the bud beginner and nug novice. Danny Danko, the senior cultivation editor of HIGH TIMES, separates folklore from facts to get the real scoop on the highest-quality sinsemilla strains available to ganja growers all over the planet. Breeders from the best seed banks on Earth reveal their secrets for creating the finest Cannabis Cup champions and HIGH TIMES Top 10 Strain award winners. This compendium covers the world's top pot varieties, all meticulously researched and lovingly described in terms ranging from odors and flavors to potency levels and medicinal properties.

Price: \$14.95

Contact: HIGH TIMES Headshop, 866-POT-SHOP (768-7467), headshop.hightimes.com



**Best Garden Surveillance Unit**

**Swann OutbackCam Outdoor-Motion Camera**

Even if growing weed were 100 percent legal, we'd still have to watch out for pilferers, whether they be whitetail deer, jealous neighbors or law enforcement. Swann Security's **OutbackCam** allows you to see just who's been nibbling in your garden when you're not around. The waterproof case contains a camera and passive infrared (PIR) sensor that records a single photo or 30-second video when triggered. An active infrared lens captures heat signatures for night surveillance. Easily concealable, the Walkman-sized unit straps to a tree or similar place where it can stealthily observe entrances and exits. Designed to help hunters observe how game trails are used, the OutbackCam records to an SD card and supports up to 35 gigabytes of memory (though it stops short of alerting you immediately when it detects an intruder).

Price: \$129.99

Contact: Swann Security, swann.com



**Best New Grow DVD**

**HIGH TIMES Presents Nico Escondido's Grow Like A Pro**

HIGH TIMES and cultivation editor Nico Escondido are super-stoked to release this unprecedented informational and educational resource. Featuring over two hours of comprehensive cultivation coverage and bonus material, this in-depth film contains never-seen-before footage (shot in HD) of America's top medical-grow facilities.

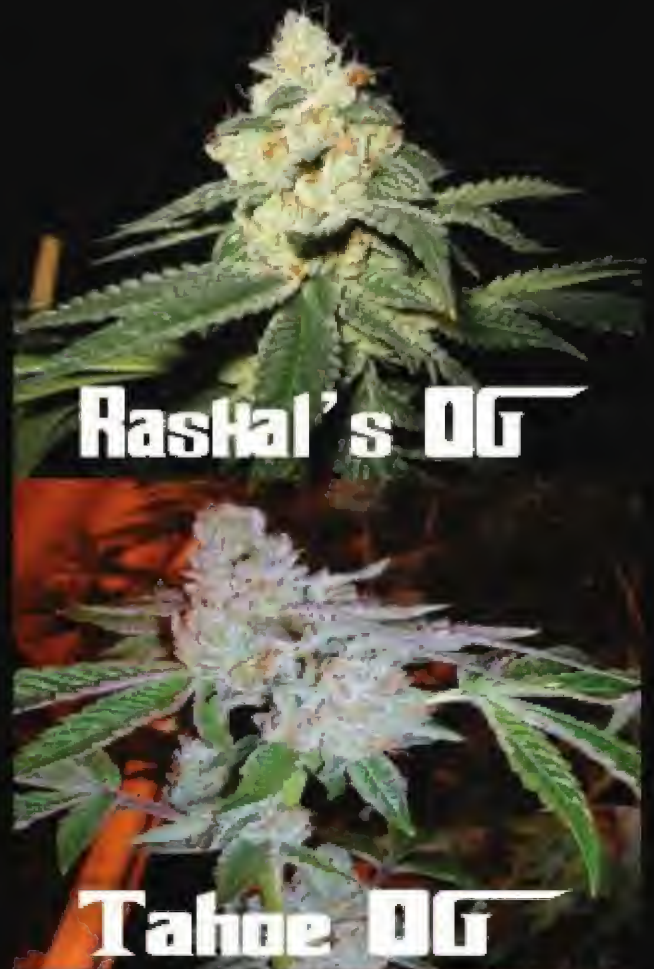
The video includes everything from indoor growing to greenhouse techniques to outdoor cultivation. Specially conceived for everyone from the beginner through the advanced grower, this exhaustive DVD is excellent both for patients just starting out and for expert growers looking to pick up a few extra tips and tricks. See a grow-room built from the ground up, plus how-to segments on subjects like topping plants during veg, cloning from mother plants, and transplanting into the flowering stage.

An extensive menu index lists over 60 DVD chapters, making this an easy-to-use quick-reference guide much like a textbook—only with constant visual aids! The topics covered include grow equipment, mediums, bulbs, garden stages, pruning, internode lengths, light-deprivation techniques, outdoor terracing, irrigation, trellising and harvesting ... just to name a few! The bonus material also includes the first-ever on-screen interview with legendary grower Chemdog. Don't miss this latest volume of cultivation information from Nico.

Price: \$19.99

Contact: HIGH TIMES Headshop, 866-POT-SHOP (768-7467), headshop.hightimes.com

# The CALI Connection<sup>TM</sup> Seed Co.

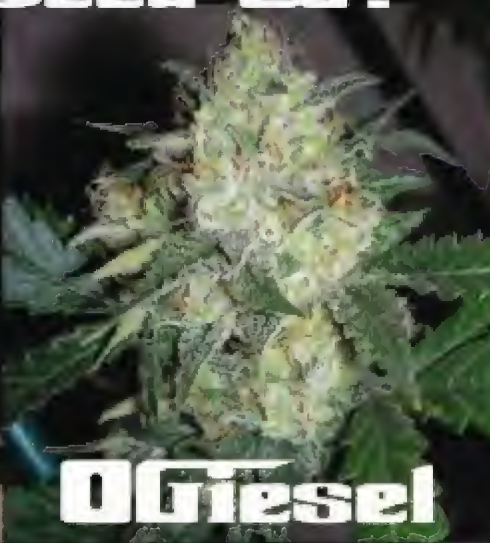


**Rastal's OG**

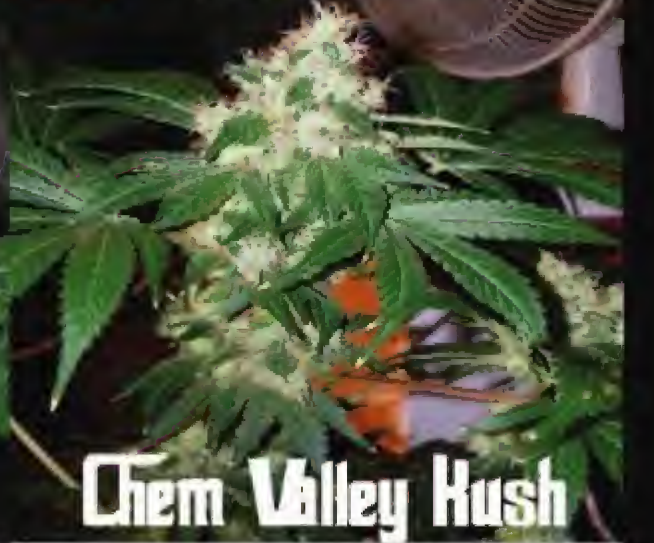
**Tahoe OG**



**Larry OG**



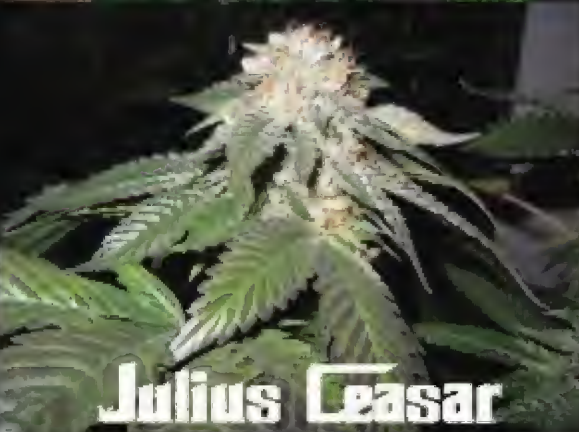
**OG Giesel**



**Chem Valley Kush**



**Blackwater**



**Julius Caesar**



**Sour OG**

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**Best Affordable Ebb-and-Flow Hydro System**

### 12-Site Hydro Kit

**Rasta Grow**

If you like to look out across a sea of green in your growroom, you can't go wrong with an ebb-and-flow system, in which the roots are flooded with nutrient-rich water that is then drained to allow oxygen to permeate the medium. **Rasta Grow's Ebb-and-Flow System** gives you a simple, low-cost way to grow 12 killer plants without tracking dirt all over your nice, clean carpets. The heart of the system is a 4-gallon controller bucket with a relay box and a mounted timer that can be set for 15-minute intervals. As water retreats through the system, oxygen is drawn directly onto the roots in the resulting vacuum. Twelve buckets connected via a network of hoses hold the actual plant pots, which can be switched out for rearranging with no disconnection required. And they come in any color you can imagine at no extra cost, a feature that Rasta Grow offers to keep your growroom feelin' irie, mon.

*Price: \$399 plus shipping and handling*

*Contact: Rasta Grow, 561-755-GR0W (4769),  
rastagrow.com*



**Best Organic Pest Treatment Formula**

### SNS-217

**Sierra Natural Science**

Spider mites are the bane of all growers—indoors and out, controlled substance or otherwise. An infestation of these pests can quickly get out of hand in any enclosed greenhouse or growroom. One application of **Sierra Natural Science's SNS-217** can obliterate an active colony before it spreads, harnessing the organic power of rosemary extracts. Spider mites feed by piercing and sucking the fluids from plant cells, but they in turn are susceptible to desiccation from the salts found within rosemary's natural oils. SNS-217 breaks the life cycle by killing adult mites and preventing eggs from hatching. But why wait for an infestation? A pre-emptive treatment of your plants every few weeks can stave off an attack and help you breathe easy when away from your garden. User reviews have also cited thrips and whitefly infestations among the formula's proven targets.

*Price: 32 oz, \$39; 1 gal, \$144*

*Contact: Sierra Natural Science, 877-626-5505,  
sierranaturalscience.com*



**Best Organic Fungus Control Product**

### SNS-244

**Sierra Natural Science**

It's heartbreaking to watch a healthy crop of cannabis wither and wilt into a dusty, crumpled mess. This can only be the result of mold and mildew—fungi that kill plants by leaching nutrients through leaf pores and roots. **Sierra Natural Science's SNS-244** attacks the spores of the fungus, halting the spread around your grow space. In keeping with the company's philosophy of using only naturally occurring chemicals, SNS-244 utilizes the essential oils found in thyme as its sole active ingredient. The properties of the herb's oil prevent mold spores from germinating, interrupting their crop-killing spread throughout your garden. And an ounce of prevention, by way of weekly spraying, translates into a big load off your mind.

*Price: 32 oz, \$27; 1 gal, \$96*

*Contact: Sierra Natural Science, 877-626-5505,*



**Best New Cleaning Product**

### Doni Garden Scrub

Growers may be tempted to check their organic methods at the door when it comes to cleaning off the sticky-icky residue of their bud harvest, but the power to cut through pot resin needn't come from nasty chemical cleansers. **Doni Garden Scrub** gets the res out effectively using only 100 percent natural and biodegradable ingredients and no animal testing. Doni's scrub utilizes the gentle cleansing power of sea salt to lift resin from skin and pores, while vegetable glycerins prevent the particles from re-binding. With scents to choose from like Venus Vanilla Jasmine and Earthy Eucalyptus Tea Tree, you'll be able to cover the lingering, tell-tale aromas fast in case the in-laws drop by for a surprise visit. And Doni's cleanser works just as well on dyes, glues and paint, so you can tackle that home-improvement project or scale model with confidence while your plants mature.

*Price: 12 oz, \$20*

*Contact: Doni Garden Scrub, donigardenscrub.com*



High Times  
Stash Award winner

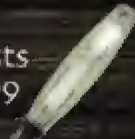
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# THE FRESHEST SWISS ENGINEERING 420 SCIENCE STYLE

The brand new UV 420 Jars are here. As we all know, sunlight enables plants to grow. But if they continue to be exposed to the sun after reaching maturity, the effect of the light actually accelerates the molecular decaying process. However, violet glass works as a natural filter that protects the quality of sensitive plantlife.

These new 420 Jars block all UV-B rays and the complete spectrum of visible light with the exception of violet. At the same time, they allow permeation of UV-A and infrared light. This unique combination offers optimal protection against the aging process, thus lengthening the lifespan and potency of your herb.

Learn more about the science behind Violet Jars at [420Science.com](http://420Science.com)



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Auto White Russian 145 Champagne 123 Indica Fifty 479  
G Bomb 91 CHIESEL 98 Hog 236 Alaskan Ice 119  
Nebula 111 WMD 79 Magic Merlin 96 Gorilla Grape 95  
Qleaner 113 Purplepassion 151 DonkeyDick 139 Blue 150  
Pickle Bud 645 Blue hell 96 Guava 143 Wreckage 194  
Pig Fucking Rhino 105 Deep Chunk 97 Roadkill 67

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WAMM's head gardener has been cultivating outdoor, organic, medicinal-grade cannabis—out in the open and on the same piece of land—since the 1970s, and he doesn't mind sharing the methods behind his madness. **By Mike Corral. Photos by Lochfoot**



# HOME GROWN

Mike Corral surrounded by budding beauties.



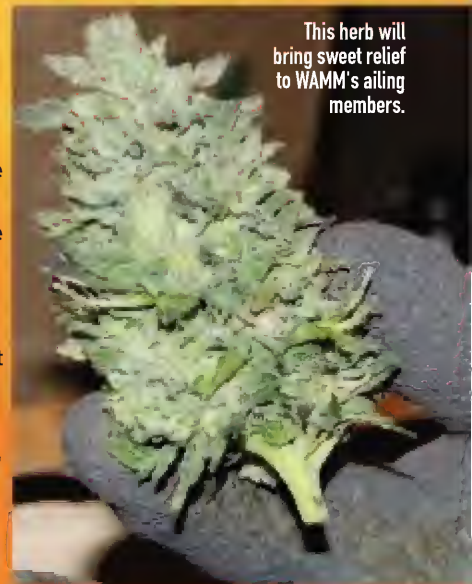
**The first day of spring** is less than a week away. I'm watching it rain and listening to the weather reports, all part of a yearly ritual.


At the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana (WAMM), our nonprofit, patient-based medical-cannabis collective in Santa Cruz, CA, we always try to plant our large outdoor garden with the full moon on the first day of spring. This tradition dates back to 1975, more than 20 years before voters approved America's first statewide law legalizing medical cannabis—an effort we actively helped champion.

Originally, I started growing marijuana for my then-wife Valerie Corral, who sustained head injuries in a car accident in 1973 that eventually led to her having up to five grand mal seizures a day. She was prescribed numerous pharmaceuticals that left her debilitated and addicted to pain meds, with no reduction of her seizure activity. Then, in 1974, I read in a medical journal that marijuana was being used to treat laboratory-induced seizures in rats. We figured we had nothing to lose, so why not give it a try? Over time, this new medical regimen began to work: Valerie was slowly able to wean herself off the heavy-duty prescription drugs. At the same, her seizure activity steadily decreased until, finally, she was completely free of epileptic seizures *and* her pharmaceutical prison sentence. After that, we began to grow our own marijuana medicine in earnest.


Two arrests followed. The first time, the charges were dropped after seven months of prosecution because it became clear that Valerie would meet the demands of what's called the "doctrine of necessity" defense—i.e., that this medicine simply worked for her when nothing else

This herb will bring sweet relief to WAMM's ailing members.





One of America's oldest medical cannabis gardens can trace its unique plant genetics back to landrace strains imported in the 1970s.



WAMM members grow outdoor organic plants as sweet and sticky as any hydro.

could. No charges were ever filed in the second arrest.

Before long, others in the community in similar need began to seek us out for guidance, and soon enough we found ourselves supplying them with cannabis as well. Word of mouth built slowly at first, but these days WAMM provides low-cost, high-quality, outdoor organic cannabis to more than 200 patients (in-

cluding many low-income, chronically ill people), all of it cultivated and processed by our members at our dedicated garden in the hills outside town. Each year, we harvest plants of four different varieties, each one completely unique to our collective and based on genetics that we can source directly back to our first gardens in the 1970s—including a purebred *sativa* from Malawi, a purebred *indica* from Afghanistan, and *indica*- and *sativa*-dominant crosses of the two.

In addition to our unique genetics, I like to think we have a fairly unique method for actually cultivating our medicine. Each year, as planting season approaches, I find myself relying on a volunteer crew of WAMM members—many with no previous gardening experience, and some with serious physical limitations—all of whom pitch in to help however they can. And each year, I'm amazed to see the way that working in the garden helps to heal those who put in the effort on behalf of their fellow WAMM members, which is why I design our weekly garden-volunteer days to be as inclusive as possible, finding an important job for everyone based on their abilities.

Our season actually begins in the fall, when the harvest is finished and we plant a cover crop of nitrogen-fixing legumes and vetches. In the spring, the cover crop gets cut down and tilled into the soil, adding organic humus that will aid in moisture retention. At that point, we're ready to replant the garden. Each year, we start over again with seedlings, which offer more vigorous growth than clones and allow us to continue the process of selectively breeding our strains and acclimating them to the local climate, though we do have the added step of "sexing" each plant to weed out the males.



WAMM's purebred *indica* originates from Afghanistan and turns purple at harvest time.



When seedlings mature, they're ready to move into pre-dug garden holes.

WAMM's *indica*-dominant hybrid starts life in a greenhouse.

Wire baskets protect WAMM's medicine from gopher attack, a local cannabis scourge.

Always water transplanted seedlings thoroughly to help roots acclimate to their new environment.

For seed germination, we rely on FoxFarm Ocean Forest, an organic pre-mixed soil that is perfectly balanced for seeds and saves us time and energy, since we don't have to build our own starter mix. In the past, we would plant each seed in a 1-gallon pot, but since the plants remain in these pots until sex differentiation, which occurs at about six to eight weeks, this year we're using 3-gallon pots to prevent the seedlings from getting root-bound before we have a chance to transplant them.

A few days before we plant the seeds, I gather the volunteers to fill the pots, prepare them in the greenhouses and wet the soil. During the roughly two months it takes before sex determination, our members also repair the garden's terraces and fences, dig the planting holes, cut weeds, install the drip system and hoses, and add the other soil amendments that the growing plants will require. I then use a magnifying headpiece to determine the sex of each plant at the earliest stage possible, when the immature flowers are still so small they're hard to see. Once the plants are sexed, we transplant the females directly into the prepared holes, which have been lined with a 5-gallon wire gopher excluder to fend off our most pernicious local garden pest.

Transplanting directly into the ground allows for unlimited root development during the vegetative-growth cycle—and after more than 30 years of growing organically in the same spot, we've built up a huge amount of high-quality soil for those roots to spread out in. Each plant is given 100 square feet of surface area in which to grow, and the plants generally fill this entire area by harvest.

Once they're in the ground, I use two methods to train them: either the

age-old topping method, which I think most growers use, or a tie-down method that I developed in the late '70s to deal with the serious stretching of our purebred *sativas*.

A week after these *sativa* plants have been transplanted, I bend over the main stem of each one until it's parallel to the ground and then fasten it in place with long metal stakes. As the plant grows larger, more stakes are added to keep it in this bent-over posture. Over time, the plant will reach 8 to 10 feet in length, while what were once side branches become vertical ones as tall as 10 to 12 feet. In this configuration, by my estimate, each *sativa* plant can produce yields two to four times larger than they otherwise would. Light penetration is the key: Most plants yield their finest flowers from the uppermost branches, but allowing more sunlight to reach the interior branches allows them to generate significant usable flower growth where normally there would be little to none—including extensive flower growth at ground level, where there's usually only stem for the first 1 to 3 feet.

And believe me, we need all the medicine we can grow. In fact, WAMM is currently in the process of expanding our membership to serve even more patients in the community. To this end, we not only need to increase our yields in the outdoor garden, but we've added an indoor component as well, managed by Justin Benson working under my oversight. Justin has an extensive cultivation background and is a welcome addition to the WAMM team. We're also introducing new strains to our genetic base, including several CBD-rich varieties, which will allow us to offer a broader range of medicine to our new and existing members.

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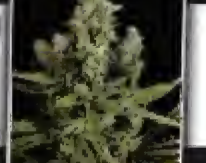
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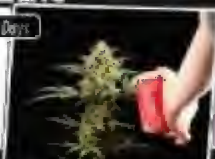
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WAMM cultivates four distinct varieties of cannabis, each with its own unique healing properties.

Our plan is always to have the entire outdoor garden sexed and planted by June 1. The next three months comprise our maintenance or vegetative-growth phase. During this time, the volunteer crew waters, fertilizes, top-dresses and inspects the plants to ensure that they're healthy and free of disease, molds and pests of all varieties. Because of our proximity to the ocean as well as the humidity here in Santa Cruz County, our biggest enemy is mold. Insect problems in a healthy, organic marijuana garden are virtually nonexistent, but approximately every three years, we do see a population explosion of moth caterpillars. When this happens, it always starts about halfway through the flowering cycle, which makes consistent inspection of the plants crucial. Any little critters that we find are carefully collected, taken out of the garden and placed on the surrounding vegetation to live out their life cycle.

Meanwhile, a few weeks before flowering begins, the males we've selected for their vitality are removed from the garden and isolated in a greenhouse, where their pollen can be collected and used in our breeding

program. Five females from each variety are also chosen for seed production. The pollen from the males is then applied to the appropriate flowers on the corresponding female, either with a paintbrush or inside a small paper bag; the bag is then placed over the freshly pollinated buds and held in place with a twist tie. This ensures that seeds are propagated only where they're desired while the rest of the crop remains seedless. Every pollinated bud is labeled with strain information, garden location and date. This info is also recorded in my garden notebook for cross-reference.

If all goes well, flowering typically begins around August 15 to September 1. As the plants begin to produce their buds, my thoughts always go back to the morning of September 5, 2002, at 6:45 a.m., when the DEA raided the WAMM garden. We had 167 beautiful plants starting to flower that year, and not only were their lives cut short, but the medicine supply of 250 WAMM-sters was stolen and destroyed. This is the only time we've ever had a theft in our garden, and it was perpetrated by our own government.



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The end of another blissful day in the garden.

WAMM members volunteer to trim the harvest.



**'WE USE ANY LEFTOVERS AND ALL OF THE TRIM FOR BAKING EDIBLES, MAKING TINCTURES, AND PRODUCING OIL AND LINIMENTS. IN FACT, WE STRIVE TO USE EVERY PART OF THE PLANT.'**

additional airflow around the plants that robs mold of the moisture it needs to flourish.

As the buds reach maturity, we harvest the fully formed branches individually and remove the medicinal flowers from their stems. Last year, for the first time, WAMM used a trim machine donated to us by TrimPro of Canada, which really saved us a lot of labor and allowed us to process the harvest quickly and efficiently. First, the branches are put through the trimming machine; next, the buds are put into trays and hung to dry. Heaters and ehumidifiers maintain a constant temperature and humidity level, helping to ensure that the buds dry and cure properly. Finally, the flowers are closely trimmed and also inspected for mold, excess stem or anything

I can't describe the feelings we all went through that day, but rest assured that WAMM proceeded to sue the Feds. After seven years in the courts, we reached a settlement in February 2010, resulting in a policy position articulated by the Obama administration through Attorney General Eric Holder, who stated that the federal government would no longer target medical-marijuana patients and providers who were compliant with state law. But remember: That statement and subsequent memos do not constitute new laws, and they can be revoked at any time. Looking at the ac-

WAMM has been helping to keep California famous for its produce for almost 40 years.



Drying racks are labeled with the date and variety of each new batch.



tions of the DEA recently, I wonder if that hasn't already happened.

In any event, the flowering cycle ideally lasts from eight to 12 weeks, depending on the strain. About one week before flowering begins, we switch the feeding regimen from a nitrogen-based organic fertilizer to a phosphorous-based one, which is then applied once a week until two weeks before harvest, when we switch to plain water. Throughout the flowering period, WAMM volunteers work diligently to remove excess leaves from the plants in preparation for harvest. Leaves contain a flower-inhibiting hormone, so their removal aids in bud growth while providing

else that might make them unsuitable for use.

Once the buds are finally cured, they're packaged in airtight quarter-pound bags and stored in cool, dark, dry conditions until they're supplied to WAMM members at our weekly meetings. We use any leftovers and all of the trim for baking edibles, making tinctures, and producing oil and liniments. In fact, we strive to use every part of the plant, including the stems, which are sometimes made into paper but generally end up as kindling for the wood stove. Which helps keep our little garden house nice and warm while I sit here and watch it rain, dreaming of another beautiful garden full of happy, healing WAMMsters! ✨

Tour the WAMM garden here:



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# CANADA'S MONSTER

HOW ONE VISIONARY MEDICAL-CANNABIS CULTIVATOR IS SUPPLYING QUALITY AND QUANTITY



Designed to grow tobacco plants, these humongous greenhouses provide the perfect environment for marijuana cultivation.

The sandy strip of prairie land north of Lake Erie has long been called Ontario's tobacco belt, and with good reason: 90 percent of the tobacco produced by Canada is grown here in vast greenhouse complexes. But with the cancer industry in free-fall over the past few years, a new cash crop has taken root in this rural countryside, and it's quickly shaping up to be the biggest grow in North America.

These endless rows of A-frames and hoop houses represent the future of cannabis cultivation. Combining all of the best and none of the worst qualities of growroom and outdoor cultivation, greenhouse gardening will undoubtedly become the preferred method for growing marijuana one day when we're all allowed to raise it in our backyards.

Derek Pedro got on board ahead of the curve. In 2008, he convinced one reluctant tobacco farmer to rent him space in a vacant greenhouse to grow a

modest batch of medical marijuana. At that time, he could barely fill a quarter of one house under the limits of Canadian law.

Today, he is up to four full greenhouses and harvests over 500 grams daily, thanks to a savvy business model that allows patients to grow their own high-quality medicine on the premises under Pedro's supervision, for a ridiculously low consulting fee of \$30 an ounce.

With demand swiftly outstripping his capacity to supply, Pedro is dreaming bigger. He's working on what has to be the record for legal marijuana cultivation: one full acre under glass. When planted, this mega-greenhouse—once intended for tobacco use only—will support nearly 2,000 super-kind cannabis plants.

To accomplish it all, Pedro is utilizing some unique means, including an experimental solar collector, an organic nutrient called "The Shitz," and the pecking power of tiny birds.

# GREENHOUSE

FOR PATIENTS. BY BEN KIND. PHOTOS BY G. LYNCH



**THE NEXT BIG THING  
IN POT GROWING: A  
MEGA-GREENHOUSE  
ENCLOSING AN ENTIRE  
ACRE OF GROW SPACE.**

## FIGHTING FOR THE BEST AND CHEAPEST MEDS

Pedro and a small but growing circle of helpers rotate their days between tours of duty working the greenhouses and furloughs back home in nearby Canadian cities like Hamilton, Burlington and Toronto.

"I'm back in civilization right now," he says. "It feels *so* good."

Pedro got his start in medical-pot farming when he accidentally discovered that smoking marijuana greatly reduced the pain he experienced from frequent migraines. Back then, Canadian patients had to get their medicine from a single government contractor, Prairie Plant Systems, which grows its plants under lights down a 150-foot mine shaft in northern Manitoba.

The finished "buds" are then milled, irradiated and pressed into bricks that resemble nothing so much as the Mexican schwag that routinely infiltrates the United States. The government charges \$150 an ounce for it. For

patients who don't legally grow their own (or are unable to, for whatever reason), this is still what they get from the Canadian government.

Pedro, who started out growing indoors, had frequent un-ins with local and federal officials. At one point, the authorities put him in jail, placed his children in temporary foster care, and ordered his electricity shut off on a trumped-up safety violation.

By the time he was able to get out and get the power restored, Pedro had lost dozens of his prized breeding parrots—macaws and African grays—that had been left untended in their nests for three days. Others were confiscated and handed over to an eager flock of bird enthusiasts that descended on the scene.

It was at this point that Pedro decided to devote his life to growing marijuana.

"I remember thinking to myself: 'I don't know when, but one day I'll get a legal check out of this, and it's all I'm gonna do,'" he says. "And you know what? I'm there."

He could easily charge half the government's price for his services

and still corner the market in Canada, but Pedro keeps his fee at \$30 an ounce more as a statement. His method has proven that high-quality marijuana can be cultivated for outrageously low prices, and Canadian law makes it legally possible. Under his carefully crafted system, Pedro technically acts as a consultant to each patient licensed to grow for his or her own personal consumption. Patients come to the greenhouse for a few hours when necessary, making it official and legit. The rest is automated sprayers and controlled shade. It's all 100 percent by the book.

Yet Pedro's still itching for his day in court, which is proving more elusive than one would imagine. At one point, after discovering his truck full of marijuana plants at the scene of a minor traffic accident, the local cops ultimately decided to walk away, despite the fact that the pot was being illegally transported: They were at a loss to explain how legally grown crops could be transported from one permissible location to another *without* violating the law.

Right now, Pedro is advocating for the only thing better than really great weed—hash. Through his organization, Medical Marijuana Alliance and Resources (his website is [mmar.ca](http://mmar.ca), a play on the acronym for Canada's Marijuana Medical Access Regulations), Pedro is campaigning for the legalization of hash as a more effective and pure medicine than bud. He's circulating a video on YouTube in which he screens some kief onto a desk and gently heats it with a lighter—right in the basement of the Justice Building where the Canadian Parliament convenes.

He's even taken his case to Health Canada, rolling up a thick chunk of pure trichomes scraped from the blades of a trimming machine for the benefit of the government's health-care bureaucrats. "I told them, 'I clean the machines after two uses, and there's about an ounce of hashish—do you mean to tell me that I'm going to throw the best part of my medicine away?'" he recalls.

But with Canadian politics having taken a recent swing to the right, Pedro says that doctors are now key to preserving patients' rights to cannabis medicine. Even so, many doctors in Canada are still reluctant to take on responsibility for interpreting the nation's convoluted medical-marijuana laws.

Pedro says that when he shows individual doctors the facts on why hashish is important medicine, they express support and encourage him to continue his education campaign. "At least doctors are receptive now," he says. "I think finally they're doing it to be spiteful, because it's been such a drag for them."



Seedlings harden off under lights before they go to the greenhouse.



Young plants go directly into the ground.



Pedro inspects a nicely flowering crop.

**PEDRO'S SETUP HARVESTS OVER A POUND OF CANNABIS A DAY.**

At the same time, this sandy loam, which once formed the bed of Lake Erie, may be great for growing tobacco, but it's less than ideal for flowering plants like cannabis. So Pedro needs to add a little oomph to stimulate both the vegging and budding stages. For that, he turns to

his goo friend Rick at the Vancouver-based Camel's Farm for some pure black gold that Rick calls "The Shitz."

The Shitz is exactly what its name implies: a potent mix of bat guano and

worm castings that contains a complete blend of elements, enzymes and vitamins in slow-release form. Pedro now gets the raw ingredients delivered from the Camel's Farm in big blue barrels. Then he and his planting team drill four-foot holes that they cave halfway up, leaving a two-foot cavity on top of loosely packed soil. Then they add a couple handfuls of the Shitz, a 7-4-4 (N-P-K) formula to boost the plants in their first few months of growth.

In addition to the Shitz, Pedro amends the soil with a blend of peat moss, perlite and well-aged sheep manure—a nearly odorless but high-octane dose of nitrogen and potash. The formula must be working: In the veg phase, Pedro says, he easily gets four inches of growth a day.

"Minimum, minimum, minimum!" he insists. "Some people have come and seen it at two weeks of veg, and they think I've been veggin' them for three or four months. We've had some eight-inch days when the plants really take off."

When it comes time to flower, Pedro cranks out the shade and doses his greenery with the Shitz bloom blend, a 1-11-1 nutrient punch for bud burst. He delivers this in liquid form through the sprayers, which he prefers to drip lines that can clog without notice. Pedro says he knows the sprayers are working because he can feel the water splashing on his skin.

He grows a number of strains, including the finicky Bubba Kush, quick-growing Juicy Fruit and super-heady Amnesia Haze, all with varying growth times and light requirements. The result is a constantly shifting mosaic of open and closed shades and a perpetual round of sowing and harvest.

The different growth times help Pedro stagger the harvests so that he's not inundated with an unmanageable yield at the end of each cycle. With more and more patients coming on board, it's something of a losing battle, but he has some friends—human and otherwise—to lend a hand.

## GROWING GRASS UNDER GLASS

The secret to this grow is its simplicity. Seedlings start under lights in a closed-off section of the greenhouse. Male plants are quickly discarded; in fact, any plant showing signs of disease or subpar development gets yanked without much hesitation.

When ready, the plants go directly into two-foot-deep holes in the earth with only an organic soil amendment. Sprayers 25 feet up rain super-oxygenated well water directly onto the plants several times a day. A nutrient solution, infused with an organic nutrient tea, is added to the water and spread around the base for the occasional top-feed.

Pedro also reels out a mechanically operated shade to force flowering and regulate both the photoperiod and the greenhouse temps. T5 fluorescents supplement the natural light on overcast days and during winter months. During a cold snap, Pedro closes the shade to trap heat, allowing the lights to run all day. He uses about 3,600 watts total in any greenhouse, an incredibly low and efficient number.

And that's it: with minimal effort and expense, Pedro's setup harvests over a pound of



Motorized shades make controlling light a cinch.

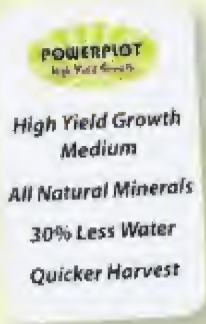
cannabis per day. The fact that he grows directly in the ground is a source of consternation for some of his loyal critics. But he says this method—as opposed to growing in pots—yields over 70 percent more buds, which has to do with the way plants regulate heat internally.

Temperatures in the greenhouses fluctuate greatly throughout the day, but a few inches beneath the surface of the earth, the soil stays just above freezing. Even when it reaches a wilting 110°F under the glass, the root structure keeps plants cool by sending ice-cold water from four feet down to the leaf tips.

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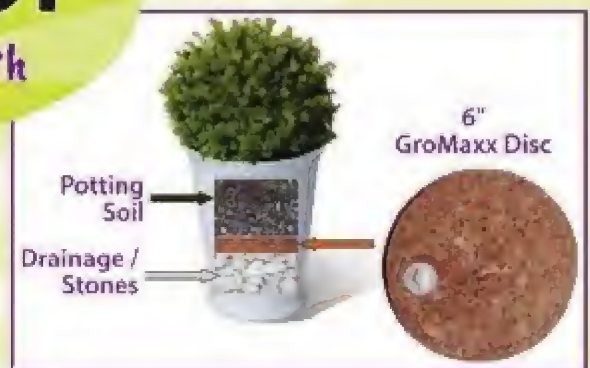
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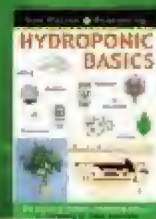


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Curing cannabis now hangs in this giant tobacco drying room.



At 40 feet long and nine feet wide, the drying room Pedro uses resembles a tractor-trailer. The first six feet of the room house a gigantic furnace, and warm air is distributed through perforations in the floor. The inside is lined with specially treated wood that helps balance the humidity level.

Running the furnace for three days with a few breaks is usually enough to dry a roomful of plants hung from the ceiling. Then Pedro lays out the buds—still on their stems—across large screens and lets them sweat until perfectly cured, harvesting them first from the outside stems and moving in towards the slower-drying middle stalk.

Though registered patients are allowed by law to grow a specific number of plants, they

Helpers tending the farm.



Sun and nutrients boost these plants as much as eight inches a day!



Quail keep weeds and bugs in check.

Experimental solar collectors heat the massive greenhouses.



aren't necessarily allowed to possess the entire bounty of their harvest. At Pedro's grow, there's always something left over. Most of that goes to other patients on loan while their plants mature, at which point the extras of their crop will be paid forward to the next group. Pedro currently has about 27 pounds out on loan to patients.

"We'll get that back, but not all of it," he says soberly. "I'm gonna lose probably seven or eight or even nine pounds just to death."

The sad irony of Canada's medical-marijuana program is that patients who have the most serious ailments also have the hardest time finding a doctor willing to write them a prescription for cannabis. Without a clear and unambiguous mandate to prescribe it, many doctors fear that a patient's death could be attributed to their medical judgment.

As a result, these patients must seek relief in quasi-legal compassion centers or through non-legal means. For the lucky ones with licenses, Pedro's greenhouses provide access to low-cost medicine of the highest efficacy. His operation has attracted some of the sickest patients (with, therefore, some of the largest cannabis prescriptions) from all corners of Canada. There's a project in the works geared specifically for them.

## THE BIRD IS THE WORD

Pedro is never at a loss for help from family, patients or the families of patients. But suppressing the (literal) weeds that sprout up from the exposed earth of an entire greenhouse floor would keep a dozen workers busy year-round—let alone doing it in *four* greenhouses. It's here that Pedro's experience with birds serves him well.

He's deployed an army of quail to stem the endless tide of weeds. Standing barely ankle-high, these mottled brown birds disappear against the dirt floor they pick clean of weeds, seeds, bugs and just about anything else. The only things they don't bother are the cannabis plants, under which they build their nests and perpetuate their ranks.

And when it comes to guano, these birds deliver it straight from the source.

As Pedro explains, the quail are actually a hybrid species bred especially for their small size and the task at hand. (He's gradually switching to northern bobwhites, which are native to the area

and will genetically supplant the quail after a few generations.) By pecking the weeds down to a nub, the quail also help control the insect population. Because mites see the world in ultraviolet light waves, the green leaf of vegetation lights up like a big neon sign reading "EAT ME!" Pedro says that by taking down those signs, the quail slow the spread of a mite infestation. So far this year, he hasn't lost a single plant to insects.

When it comes time to harvest, the all-organic supplements left by the birds require no flushing, same as the other organic additives. While under most circumstances, drying 500 grams of weed a day would be a logistical nightmare, one of the benefits of growing pot on a tobacco farm is that commercial curing equipment is already in place.



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Pedro loves to show off his beauties.



A fine example of what a little sun and water will do.



What looks like 15 separate greenhouses is actually a single grow space.



A juicy cola ready for harvest.



### THE LARGEST LEGAL GROW UNDER ONE ROOF

Early last spring, Pedro and his crew began hauling sticks and dead vegetation mixed with chunks of ice out the doors of the next big thing in pot growing: a mega-greenhouse enclosing an entire acre of grow space.

What looks at first glance like a row of domed greenhouses sitting one on top of another is actually a single giant roof. The space beneath is so big that workers must use rail cars mounted on pipes to work the rows from one end to the other.

But the size of the space presented a problem for Pedro. A smaller greenhouse can be heated efficiently in the winter months, but in this monster greenhouse, an electric or fossil-fuel furnace would hardly be cost-effective.

Fortunately for Pedro, the open plains of Ontario's tobacco belt are ideal for another sort of harvest: solar energy. Pedro's greenhouses share the grounds with a three-acre solar project built to heat a small organic food-processing plant. The long rows of pipes angled to the sun heat

water carried to radiators within the facility. As Pedro learned, the collectors produce way more hot water than needed, and the developers were only too happy to let him tap in. Right now, he has a plumber putting together the plans.

Once the radiators are in place, this mega-grow will sustain 1,850 plants at one time. Unlike his cold frames, where he can plant directly into the ground, Pedro will need to build a series of 30-foot-long planter boxes, each four feet wide at the top and tapering down to two and a half feet at the base. This means a little more labor on his part, but Pedro says the cost is offset by the potential for massive yields.

Yet this grow is designed to supply just four medical licenses—four of Canada's largest. (Under the law, four is the maximum number of licenses that a person can grow for in one spot at one time.)

Pedro doesn't expect to fill the house in the first few years, but he's fairly confident that once Canada has its medical-marijuana code sorted out, this one-acre greenhouse will seem quaint. With his \$30-an-ounce mantra, he's already set the standard for other growers who may have another kind of green on their minds.

"If it was all about the dollar for me, it'd be 200 bucks an ounce," he says. "I'm happy enough with a paycheck that's gonna pay my mortgage and put my kid in university—and, yeah, from the 50 people that I grow for, a pat on the back and to know that I've made a difference in their lives." ✨

See Pedro making hash:



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Getting stoned makes food tastier, bad comedies funnier, conversations more interesting, sex more intense. Yet there's an even higher value from smoking pot—the spiritual connection it awakens within the user, which can occur alone in the serenity of nature or at a rock concert surrounded by thousands. Those spiritual sensations have inspired rites and ceremonies and even the formation of organized religions based upon ritualized cannabis use. In this context, pot serves as an *entheogen*, from the Greek word *entheos* (“God within”)—a psychotropic substance used for religious rituals and astral explorations.

# THE HOLY CH

## THE ORIGINS OF SPIRITUAL POT

As one example, consider the *Ben Cao Jing*, regarded as the world's oldest work on herbal medicine. Attributed to the quasi-mythical Chinese emperor Shennong (said to have lived circa 2800 BCE), and compiled from oral traditions somewhere between 300 BCE and 200 CE, the *Ben Cao Jing* offers this ancient appraisal of marijuana: “If taken over a long term, it makes one communicate with spirits and lightens one's body.” In fact, in 2008, cannabis purported to be highly potent was discovered in a Chinese tomb some 2,700 years old, suggesting that the ancient Chinese were well aware of the connection between strong pot and heightened spiritual experiences.

In the similarly ancient Indian sacred text known as the *Atharva-Veda*, cannabis is regarded as a “gift from the gods.” The *bhanga* spirit (the Indian word for pot is *bhanga*) granted its worshippers “freedom from distress” and was regarded as a “reliever of anxiety.”

Charas is hand-made hashish from India that is still used today in certain Hindu sects. It's especially popular with sadhus, the mystics whose sole purpose is to achieve *moksha*—the liberation of the soul from the endless cycle of birth, death and reincarnation on the physical plane in order to attain the eternal joy of nirvana via union with Brahman, the supreme universal spirit.

Likewise, in Africa, the ancient Congo cult Bena-Riamba (“Sons of Hemp”) worshipped marijuana as a god that protects its faithful from physical and spiritual harm. Reportedly, this cult has been revived in modern times by the Kasai tribes.



The Chinese emperor Shennong praised cannabis.

## BIBLICAL BUDDS

From Genesis to Revelation, pot is mentioned throughout the world's biggest religious best-seller. Many are familiar with Genesis 1:29-30, in which God declares that He gave every herb bearing seed to humanity—including, of course, cannabis (which gives those who argue “How can a plant created by God be illegal?” some biblical ammunition).

Meanwhile, Psalm 104:14 states that God grew “the herb for the service of man.” And one of the biggies quoted most often by modern pot religions, Revelation 22:2, states that “the tree of life, and the leaf from that tree, is for the healing of the nations.” Many have championed the idea that the Tree of Life is the cannabis plant and that the leaf (bud) from that tree is the calming and medicinal agent associated with treating or curing ills in both the individual and the society at large—i.e., “the healing of the nations.”

But perhaps the most straightforward link between the Bible and pot comes via the Hebrew herb called *qaneh bosm*—i.e., cannabis—which God ordered Moses to use in a sacred anointing perfume. Mentions of *qaneh bosm* pop up throughout the various books of the Bible. Also, cannabis allegedly was the first plant to grow on the grave of King Solomon.



# ENICAL

IN THE SEARCH TO BROADEN OUR SPIRITUALITY, CANNABIS SHINES A LIGHT. BY MARK MILLER

## THE RISE OF POT RELIGIONS

Back in the 1930s, when marijuana was being criminalized in the US, a new religion based in part around pot was developing in Jamaica. Known as the Rastafari movement, its followers regard cannabis use as a sacrament that brings them closer to Jah (the Rasta word for “God,” much like Islam’s “Allah”). Rastafarians use pot to receive “insights” from Jah, and certainly the worldwide prohibition of pot fits snugly into their worldview: Denying ganja to the masses is an evil perpetrated by the corrupt “Babylon,” or white-dominated society.

One of the most enduring pot religions is the Church of the Universe ([iamm.com](http://iamm.com)), established by Walter Tucker in 1969 in Ontario, Canada. When asked about the origins of the church, Brother Tucker says: “It dawned on me from smoking that it was a religious experience. I had been raised in the Catholic Church, but quit that at age 14. When I smoked pot in 1968-’69, the Tree of Life from the Book of Revelation seemed to be marijuana.

“I was part of a group of people for whom smoking was more of a deep spiritual experience than a get-together just to party. So nine of us started the church, and we’ve been growing ever since.”

Church of the Universe member Sister Juliet offers a welcome feminine perspective on the topic: “Pot helps me go inside. That’s why some people get paranoid when they smoke—because they’re

frightened already. Within me, it promotes peace and love, makes me more aware.”

In 1981, as Ronald Reagan was ramping up the Drug War, Norm Lubow—who was influenced by both Rastafarianism and Marxism—formed the Religion of Drugs. Then, in the late ’80s, Lubow reinvented himself as the Reverend Bud Green, passing out pin joints of pot—which he dubbed “the Lord”—to audiences at live concerts with his rock band, *Just Say Yes*, and on TV talk shows like *Geraldo*, *Joan Rivers* and *Jerry Springer*.

Roger Christie formed the THC Ministry in Hawaii in 2000 after being ordained by the Religion of Jesus Church, which regards pot as a holy sacrament and openly works toward “liberating the cannabis hemp plant and the minds of those who do and do not revere it.” Christie was even licensed by the state of Hawaii as a “cannabis sacrament minister.”

The THC Ministry allegedly gave church members cannabis in return for “donations.” Christie was indicted in 2010 by a federal grand jury and is now being held in the Honolulu Federal Detention Center awaiting trial. Despite his personal travails, the THC Ministry has already established a legacy, with chapters forming in Australia, Canada, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom as well as nearly 20 US states from coast to coast.



THC was created by God, intended to spark the divine in the cannabis user.



In Genesis 1:29-30, God declares that He gave every herb bearing seed to humanity.

## CHURCH AND STATE

Like the THC Ministry, other pot religions have come into conflict with law enforcement and government authorities, with church leaders being arrested and sometimes convicted for administering the sacrament.

Craig X. Rubin, a West Coast cannabis personality who once appeared on *Weeds*, founded the Los Angeles-based Temple 420. He describes his former temple as “a Jewish and Christian pot church for people to feel welcome at. We didn’t promote pot, rather read the Bible to stoners—we did Old Testament on Saturday and New Testament on Sunday.”

Temple 420 was raided twice, first in 2006 in Hollywood and again in 2009 after it relocated to Beverly Hills. Rubin was busted for possession with the intent to distribute, though he maintained the pot was being used only by legal California patients (the charges

were eventually dropped).

## ‘THE TREE OF LIFE PRODUCES A CHAIN OF EMANATIONS THAT COMPRISES ALL OF EXISTENCE.’

Rubin also has a uniquely apocalyptic slant to his ministry: “Pot religions are popping up like popcorn. I think most of them are non-biblical—they’ll continue to proliferate, because the Bible said false religions will be around at the end times.”

The Church of Cognizance was founded in 1991 by Dan and Mary Quaintance in Arizona. They preached that cannabis aids the mind, body and soul. In 2006, the Quaintances were arrested with 172 pounds of pot. A US district court judge rejected their argument that the pot was intended for religious purposes. In 2008, the Quaintances pled guilty to distribution in order to receive reduced sentences; in 2010, a federal appellate court rejected their appeal, based once again on the claim that the pot was solely for religious use. Also that same year, a Colorado member of the THC Ministry was convicted of possession after a judge ruled that the man’s beliefs did not rise to the level of a religion.

## CABBALISTIC CANNABIS

The Judaic mystical discipline of Kabbalah has its own version of the Tree of Life, which produces a chain of “emanations” that comprises all of existence from spirit to matter. One such emanation is called Yesod, which serves as the metaphysical template for life on the physical plane (known as Malkuth) that we currently inhabit in mortal form. Cannabis is a part of that material existence—but consider the possibility that the spiritual element of the marijuana high, found in the psychoactive chemical THC, was actually created by God (or some similar eternal entity) on the metaphysical plane of Yesod and intended to spark the divine within the mortal user of cannabis after it evolved, billions of years later, in plant form for consumption here on Earth.

Regarding more temporal concerns, Gilla Mogilevsky, the female leader of the Australian branch of the international Kabbalah Centre, was busted in 2006—along with her three sons—for cultivating over 1,000 cannabis plants. These days, there’s even a pot strain called Kabbalah—a hybrid said to be drenched in THC with cerebrally uplifting properties, ideal for use by those striving toward spiritual ecstasy.

Nor is mainstream religion immune to the idea of spiritual highs. The modern-day organization Christians for Cannabis ([christiansforcannabis.com](http://christiansforcannabis.com)) encourages pot-smoking Christians to post and share their experiences online. The website Christians Against Prohibition ([christiansagainstoprohibition.org](http://christiansagainstoprohibition.org)) features pro-legalization news and essays. And last year, just before Christmas, none other than televangelist Pat Robertson suggested that it’s time to reconsider marijuana prohibition and its penalties.

The fundamental fact is this: Prayer is an avenue for human beings to examine what is in their heart, their soul, their spirit or their emotions. It is a conversation with ourselves, but it is also an appeal to something larger, an effort to become conscious of the presence of the Creator. And, for many, cannabis is among the very best tools for illuminating that presence. ✨

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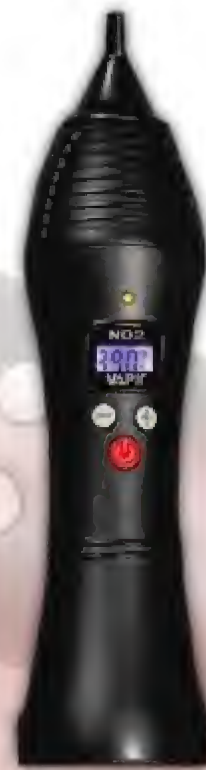
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Babanya Tek stands at less than 2" tall, and is 1 5/8" in diameter. It is made from 60-61 Aircraft aluminum, on a CNC machine. Made in the U.S.A. The pipe also has cooling fins, to keep the device from getting hot. The kit comes in five, anodized, colors. Pink, Red, Blue, Black, and Clear aluminum. The case also has a sealed compartment to freshly hold your product.

Dimensions: 1 5/8" round x less than 2" long  
Colors for pipe and case: Red, Blue, Black, Pink, and Clear Aluminum  
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## THE HIGH TIMES BUYER'S GUIDE TO

# VAPORIZERS

HIGH TIMES BREAKS DOWN THE VAPORIZER MARKET TO HELP YOU FIND THE BEST DEVICE FOR YOUR PERSONAL VAPING NEEDS, ALL THE WHILE KEEPING IN MIND THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN CHOOSING A VAPORIZER: THE HIGH. BY SVEN GARDENER

**Comparing vaporizers is** a peculiar exercise. It's easy to declare that the Volcano is the pre-eminent vapor-delivery device on the market; after all, it's well-designed, efficient and produces an excellent high. However, if you're more concerned with portability or stealth in a vaporizing unit, the Volcano is not the best choice—it's definitely not the type of device you can hit on a ski lift. And when you factor in price, things become even more complicated. It's true that a high-quality vaporizer can save you money in the long run, as vaporization is more efficient than smoking in terms of THC extraction. But keep in mind that a unit like the Digital Volcano will cost you \$669. And even though it's worth every penny, many smokers don't have that kind of cash lying around.

So selecting a vaporizer is really a matter of personal preference or need. Are you looking for a highly efficient, attractive unit to keep at home, or a super-portable unit that you can take camping? Do you have several hundred dollars to invest in a state-of-the-art device, or are budgetary restrictions forcing you to vape on the cheap?

Vaporization occurs when heat causes the resin glands in cannabis to boil off in the form of vapor. An efficient vaporizer extracts the active compounds in cannabis (the chemicals that get you high) without the harmful byproducts of burned plant matter (such as carbon monoxide and tar). There are basically two methods used by all vaporizers: conduction or convection. With conduction, the pot is placed in a glass or metal housing. The housing is heated, causing the cannabis to heat in turn, resulting in vaporization. With convection, hot air passes over the cannabis by means of the unit's internal fan ("forced air") or by the user's suction ("passive air"), causing vaporization. Generally speaking, convection models are more efficient while conduction units are more portable.

Figuring out what you need from a vaporizer is the first step in selecting the right device. However, the overcrowded market doesn't make that decision any easier. Though there's great variety, it's difficult to know which devices are worth purchasing and which are best left on the shelf. But fear not: The HIGH TIMES staff has painstakingly reviewed 17 models of varying price and portability to help you weed through the also-rans and select the best vaporizer for you.

Dragon Vap



### Dragon Vap

The Dragon Vap is a conduction unit that utilizes butane to heat a small ceramic bowl. The bowl needs to be heated for about a minute before the device is ready to hit. The staff agreed that the cheap plastic casing was unappealing, and the refillable butane fuel reservoir added a hint of danger. But if you can look past that, the Dragon Vap packs a punch, albeit a harsh one.

**Pluses:** Very portable, stealthy, no electricity required.

**Minuses:** Not very durable, and you could singe your eyebrows. *Earthspirit.com*, \$123

Easy Vape



### Easy Vape

Straight out of the box, this one looked like a winner: It's simple, sleek and user-friendly. But for all its design assets, there's a design flaw that stole the spotlight. The Easy Vape is a passive-air convection vaporizer; a whip (i.e., a glass bowl connected to a tube) fits on the ceramic heating element, and the user draws hot air over the cannabis, producing vapor. However, the Easy Vape's heating element sits at an angle, which caused the pot packed into the whip to fall directly onto the blisteringly hot glass and metal screen during our testing, producing smoke, not vapor.

**Pluses:** Positive HT write-up in 2009.

**Minuses:** See above. *Vaporizergiant.com*, \$149.99

Essential VAAAPP



### Essential VAAAPP

The Essential VAAAPP is an ultra-portable, pocket-sized unit that allows you to vaporize hash oil just about anywhere. It requires a manually applied flame, but you'll be rewarded with heavy vapor hits. A torch works best, but that will cut into the stealth factor. The staff also recommends the Eclipse Vape<sub>2</sub>0, a smaller, more versatile model that can be used as a mini-pipe or with your bong.

**Pluses:** Simple, effective, inexpensive, portable.

**Minuses:** Flaming a glass vial attached to a pipe can make you feel like a crackhead. *Herbalvaporizer.com*, \$89.95 for each unit



Extreme Q

**Extreme Q**

No forced-air convection vaporizer we've seen can compete with the Volcano, but the Extreme Q is a reasonably priced alternative to its expensive predecessor. The unit is sleek and appealing and offers digital temperature readings. You can use the device to fill a vapor bag or attach a whip, which is designed to swivel 360 degrees, making the Extreme Q ideal for group sessions.

**Pluses:** Versatile and sturdy; half the price of the Volcano.

**Minuses:** Definitely not portable; comes with a potpourri mix that smells like an old folks' home. *Vaporizergiant.com*, \$299.99



iolite

**iolite**

Like the Dragon Vap, the iolite is fueled by butane. However, the staff much preferred the iolite's sleek design and stealthy size. Additionally, the iolite features an internal heating element, so there's no menacing open flame. It takes about a minute for the iolite to reach its operational temperature, which it will maintain until it's switched off. Hits off the iolite were definitely inconsistent—a tradeoff for portability. It'll get you high, but it's not going to blow you away.

**Pluses:** Super-stealthy, portable, well-designed.

**Minuses:** Inconsistent hits, overpriced. *My-iolite.com*, \$218



Life Saber

**Life Saber**

This is the type of unit that creates a buzz simply through its design. Resembling a lightsaber, particularly when equipped with its "transfer wand," the Life Saber is a slick-looking device. Better still, it hits like a champ. And it's versatile—it can also be used as a flameless lighter for your bowl or bong. A number of add-on glass adaptors are available to enhance the experience.

**Pluses:** Looks cool, hits great, well-designed.

**Minuses:** Whoever you're vaping with will automatically break out a Mark Hamill reference. *Lifesabervaporizer.com*, \$299.99



Hot Box

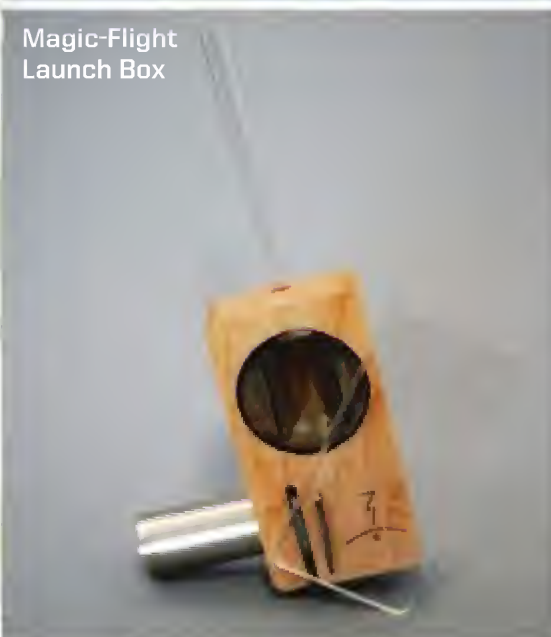
**Hot Box**

The Hot Box is a staff favorite. Nothing too fancy here—just plug in the small but sturdy unit, allow it to heat up, place the whip on the heating element and enjoy smooth, potent vapor hits.

The Hot Box is reliable, consistent and, in an odd way, stealthy: Sitting on a desk, it looks as innocuous as an electric pencil sharpener. And considering its durability, it's reasonably priced.

**Pluses:** Simple and unobtrusive; consistently smooth vapor hits.

**Minuses:** No temp control; "Hot Box" is not a misnomer—this device gets incredibly hot. *Herbalvaporizer.com*, \$149.99



Magic-Flight Launch Box

**Magic-Flight Launch Box**

Because it's lightweight, pocket-sized and runs on AA batteries, you'll be able to take the Launch Box anywhere. But when you get where you're going, you'll realize that you sacrificed efficiency for portability with this vaporizer. Catching a buzz off the Launch Box requires perseverance and deep pulls, though it will get you high.

**Pluses:** Super-portable, simple, cost-effective.

**Minuses:** Definitely not a heavy-hitter, and not for the impatient. *Magic-flight.com*, \$99

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# vaporizers



Silver Surfer

## Silver Surfer

For testing purposes, we were sent the Adler's Wave Rider model, unquestionably an impressive-looking unit. Aesthetics aside, the Silver Surfer is a highly effective vaporizer. A whip is held up to the heating element and the user inhales from the tube. Hits are strong and consistent. Unfortunately, the glass bowl doesn't rest on the heating element. An optional "hands-free attachment" comes with the unit but fails to inspire confidence.

**Pluses:** Aesthetically pleasing; hits very well.

**Minuses:** Temperature control is tricky; not portable; a bit pricey.

*Silversurfervap.com, \$349.99*



Mini Vap

## Mini Vap

It resembles a can of caulk and vaporizes like one, too. The Mini Vap's solid design and nifty charging pad led to high hopes. Sadly, this unit failed to deliver consistent hits despite our best attempts. When you factor in the price—an astronomical sum—it's clear the Mini Vap should be avoided.

**Pluses:** Somewhat stealthy, very portable, long-lasting rechargeable battery.

**Minuses:** Inconsistent hits, unreliable temperature control, insanelly overpriced. *Minivap.com, \$872*



Vape-or-Smoke

## Vape-or-Smoke

The HT research team was unanimous in its praise for the Vape-or-Smoke—an aptly named unit that can be used as a vaporizer or a bowl depending on the flame setting. A low flame allows heat to pass through the packed bowl, producing vapor without burning your pot. If you're in a combustion kind of mood, simply turn up the flame. The Vape-or-Smoke can also vaporize hash oil thanks to a new drop-in atomizer accessory.

**Pluses:** Sturdy, stealthy, ultra-portable, versatile.

**Minuses:** Not the most efficient cannabis vaporizer (portable or otherwise).

*Vapeorsmoke.com, \$149.99, atomizer \$25*



Vapir NO<sub>2</sub>

## Vapir NO<sub>2</sub>

A marked improvement over the Vapir One and Vapir Oxygen 2.0, which we previously described as "foul-smelling" and "noxious." The Vapir NO<sub>2</sub> is user-friendly and boasts a digital temperature display. The unit heats up quickly and delivers potent vapor hits. The NO<sub>2</sub>'s plastic casing (and perhaps the memories of other Vapir iterations) turned off some staffers, but in the end, the unit proved effective and a near bargain compared to the similar Mini Vap.

**Pluses:** User-friendly, very portable, battery-operated.

**Minuses:** Hits on the harsh side, even at lower temps.

*Vapir.com, \$179.99*



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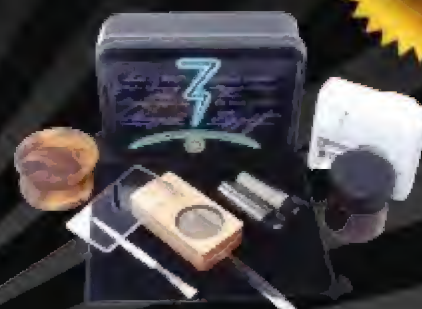
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# THE HIGH TIMES BUYER'S GUIDE TO VAPORIZERS

## Vaporperfection

A sleek and attractive convection vaporizer, the Vaporperfection Stealth Novus impressed right out of the box. This unit is a bit larger than the passive-air "box" devices we tested, but it's not unwieldy. The staff appreciated its user-friendly temperature setting as well as the digital display. However, finding the most efficient temperature for the Stealth Novus takes a bit of patience. Even at lower temps, our hits were on the smoky side. The window for smooth, consistent vapor is small—but we found it.

**Pluses:** Slick-looking, sturdy, durable.  
**Minuses:** Expensive. [Vaporperfection.com](http://Vaporperfection.com), \$500



Vaporperfection



Vapolution 2.0

## Vapolution 2.0

Not the flashiest unit, and its light-weight plastic design caused some staffers to write it off at first glance. However, most changed their tune after trying the Vapolution 2.0. There's nothing elaborate here—just pack your pot into a thin glass tube and insert it into the base unit. The heating element heats the glass, which vaporizes the cannabis inside.

**Pluses:** Not stealthy, but very portable (ours came with a chargeable battery pack and car adaptor).  
**Minuses:** No numbers on the temperature dial; thin line between vapor and smoke. [Vapolution.com](http://Vapolution.com), \$249.99

## Electronic Cigarettes

Behold the future of vaporizing: These devices are super-stealthy and portable—and if you're using them to vaporize hash oil, you're so far ahead of the curve that you can hit them just about anywhere without anyone catching on. At this point, however, they aren't capable of vaporizing cannabis, so they're really only useful if you live in a state where medical marijuana is legal or you have a steady hash-oil connection. We tested three models (described below); all were extremely stealthy, portable and easy to use.



AtmosRX

## AtmosRX

While the AtmosRX was the largest of the e-cigarettes tested, it was also the staff favorite. It's even available with pre-loaded cartridges in medical states. It can be tricky to reload, but it's worth the effort. [Atmosrx.com](http://Atmosrx.com), \$79.95

## Colorado E-Smokes

A bit smaller than the AtmosRX and extremely efficient, this device is sold along with a syringe applicator of hash oil in medical states. It's very easy to refill with oil, and it consistently produces. [Coloradoe-smokes.com](http://Coloradoe-smokes.com), \$69.99

## Blu

This device was the smallest of the e-cigarettes and, according to one of our researchers, the most "elegant." It doesn't come with hash oil, and loading the device takes patience. But once you get it right, you're rewarded with discreet vapor hits. [Blucigs.com](http://Blucigs.com), \$69.95 \*



Blu

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# CANNABIS CLOWNS

**THE INSANE CLOWN POSSE HAVE SURVIVED 20 YEARS OF CONTROVERSY, ONLY TO TRANSCEND POP MUSIC ALTOGETHER AND BECOME AN INDEPENDENTLY FUNCTIONING COUNTERCULTURE.**

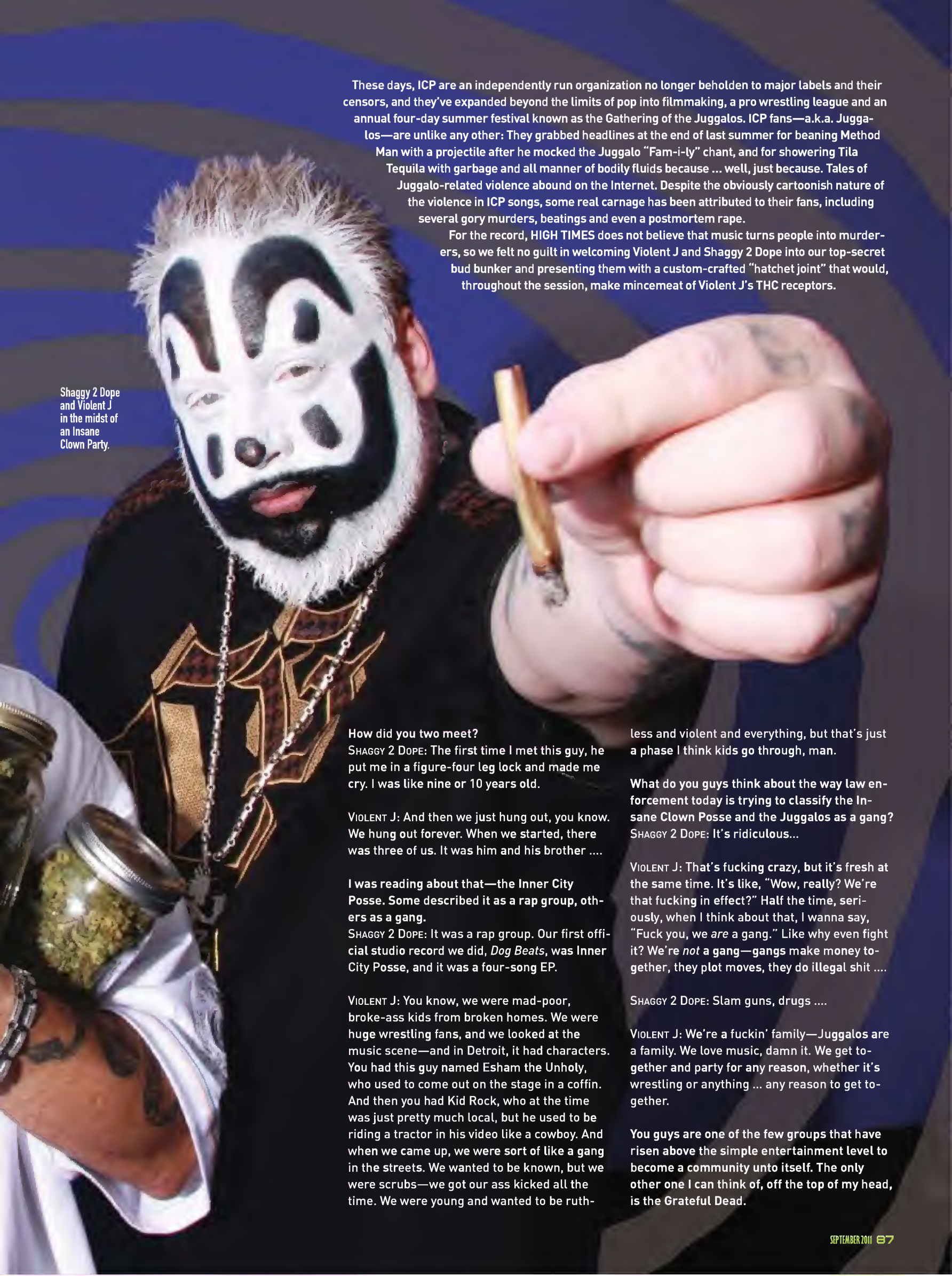
**INTERVIEW BY CHRIS SIMUNEK. PHOTOS BY JAMES DEMARIA**

After five minutes of conversation with Violent J and Shaggy 2 Dope (given names: Joseph Bruce and Joseph Utsler), one gets the distinct impression that, despite having known each other since middle school and performing together as the Insane Clown Posse for 20 years, the duo have managed to sidestep one seemingly inevitable trap of long-term creative partnerships: They don't hate each other. In fact, they seem like good friends.

In and around the city of Detroit, MI, the two bonded in the late '80s over a mutual love of music and professional wrestling, forming first the JJ Boys, then the Inner City Posse and finally the Insane Clown Posse. Rather than compete with the hardcore gangsta-rap artists who inspired them, ICP gave voice to evil fairytales full of obscenity and gore, creating a genre that came to be known as horrorcore. The wicked-clown motif came to Violent J in a dream, as did the "Dark Carnival" legend that the group continues to reinvent with each subsequent release. In ICP mythology, the Dark Carnival is a world that exists between heaven and hell, where people are judged according to their actions. Although the concept was originally intended for six albums, or "Joker's Cards," ICP revived the theme with 2009's *Bif! Pow! Boom!*, which revealed the first Joker Card in a brand-new deck. They're gearing up to reveal the second card in 2012, with an album titled *The Mighty Death Pop!*

From their first release, 1992's *Carnival of Carnage*, ICP have inspired a mixture of hatred and devotion in their listeners. Even as they topped many music critics' "worst" lists, their fan base multiplied geometrically, starting in hometown Detroit and spreading throughout the Midwest to the coasts. Signed briefly to the Disney-owned Hollywood Records in 1996, their album *The Great Milenko* was withdrawn the same day it was issued because Mickey Mouse—having recently been hammered by Southern Baptists for sponsoring "Gay Days" at Disneyland—wished to distance his rodent self from anything controversial. But controversy, however distasteful it might have been for the Mouse, is a preferred meal for the Clowns, and *Milenko*, once it was re-released, went platinum.





Shaggy 2 Dope and Violent J in the midst of an Insane Clown Party.

These days, ICP are an independently run organization no longer beholden to major labels and their censors, and they've expanded beyond the limits of pop into filmmaking, a pro wrestling league and an annual four-day summer festival known as the Gathering of the Juggalos. ICP fans—a.k.a. Juggalos—are unlike any other: They grabbed headlines at the end of last summer for beaming Method Man with a projectile after he mocked the Juggalo "Fam-i-ly" chant, and for showering Tila Tequila with garbage and all manner of bodily fluids because ... well, just because. Tales of Juggalo-related violence abound on the Internet. Despite the obviously cartoonish nature of the violence in ICP songs, some real carnage has been attributed to their fans, including several gory murders, beatings and even a postmortem rape.

For the record, HIGH TIMES does not believe that music turns people into murderers, so we felt no guilt in welcoming Violent J and Shaggy 2 Dope into our top-secret bud bunker and presenting them with a custom-crafted "hatchet joint" that would, throughout the session, make mincemeat of Violent J's THC receptors.

**How did you two meet?**

**SHAGGY 2 DOPE:** The first time I met this guy, he put me in a figure-four leg lock and made me cry. I was like nine or 10 years old.

**VIOLENT J:** And then we just hung out, you know. We hung out forever. When we started, there was three of us. It was him and his brother ....

I was reading about that—the Inner City Posse. Some described it as a rap group, others as a gang.

**SHAGGY 2 DOPE:** It was a rap group. Our first official studio record we did, *Dog Beats*, was Inner City Posse, and it was a four-song EP.

**VIOLENT J:** You know, we were mad-poor, broke-ass kids from broken homes. We were huge wrestling fans, and we looked at the music scene—and in Detroit, it had characters. You had this guy named Esham the Unholy, who used to come out on the stage in a coffin. And then you had Kid Rock, who at the time was just pretty much local, but he used to be riding a tractor in his video like a cowboy. And when we came up, we were sort of like a gang in the streets. We wanted to be known, but we were scrubs—we got our ass kicked all the time. We were young and wanted to be ruth-

less and violent and everything, but that's just a phase I think kids go through, man.

**What do you guys think about the way law enforcement today is trying to classify the Insane Clown Posse and the Juggalos as a gang?**  
**SHAGGY 2 DOPE:** It's ridiculous...

**VIOLENT J:** That's fucking crazy, but it's fresh at the same time. It's like, "Wow, really? We're that fucking in effect?" Half the time, seriously, when I think about that, I wanna say, "Fuck you, we *are* a gang." Like why even fight it? We're *not* a gang—gangs make money together, they plot moves, they do illegal shit ....

**SHAGGY 2 DOPE:** Slam guns, drugs ....

**VIOLENT J:** We're a fuckin' family—Juggalos are a family. We love music, damn it. We get together and party for any reason, whether it's wrestling or anything ... any reason to get together.

**You guys are one of the few groups that have risen above the simple entertainment level to become a community unto itself. The only other one I can think of, off the top of my head, is the Grateful Dead.**



2 Dope inspects the merchandise.

**VIOLENT J:** I think this is some shit never before seen in the history of rock'n'roll. I think Juggalos are being underestimated, and maybe, when we're gone and old and dead, they'll be respected and looked at like, "Wow, that was fuckin' awesome!" But right now, while we're doing it, everybody wants to say, "Fuck them, they're lame. I know a Juggalo—what a dork." Or whatever they say. But in reality, there is nothing like it in music. Period.

**When I read about you ... I mean, people hate you guys.**

**SHAGGY 2 DOPE:** Yeah, they fuckin' hate us.

**And yet your albums go platinum.**

**VIOLENT J:** Everything we did, we did through the back door. We snuck up the back.

**SHAGGY 2 DOPE:** We're not invited to the awards, we don't mingle with fucking, with, with ....

**VIOLENT J:** We sold 10 million records, but we don't get invited to none of that shit. We can't even call and say we wanna come. They'll be like, "Fuck you, you don't know nobody. You got a bad reputation." I think that's the shit. I think that's independent, I think that's saying, "Fuck you, we don't need you, we do our own shit—we sell 10 million records!" How can you hate that?

**SHAGGY 2 DOPE:** We don't go out with celebrity broads, we bang tittie dancers—you know what I'm saying?

**VIOLENT J:** Straight up. Absolutely, man.

**SHAGGY 2 DOPE:** And *lots* of 'em.

**You guys have your own subculture, but you**

**also have your own theory of the universe, the Dark Carnival. Why don't you explain that—the ICP theory of the cosmos?**

**VIOLENT J:** This is probably another reason why everybody disses us [laughs] ....

**SHAGGY 2 DOPE:** Before you start—like, the big thing going around right now is that we're like a religious *Christian* group. That's the most ridiculous shit ever, you know what I'm saying? Dark Carnival is not Christian rock.

**VIOLENT J:** You know, just the fact that they're saying something about us like that—it's awesome, you know, it's like .... Hey, I believe in God—you know, I wanna believe in *something*. I know science and everything is saying there is no God and they're debunking everything, but when I was a kid, my mom taught me to believe in God. Without God, people just ain't got no hope. I think it gives old people something to fuckin' believe in, and nobody can never say for sure there ain't no God, you know what I'm saying? That's why I choose to believe in Him.

**In the Dark Carnival, do they sell weed, and if so, what's the going price?**

**SHAGGY 2 DOPE:** No, no, they give it away, man.

**In that space between heaven and hell.**

**VIOLENT J:** Weed is one of the fresh elements of life, that's what it's all about. That's the gift—life.

**Give us the official ICP statement on weed.**

[There's a long pause here while the statement is formulated.]

**SHAGGY 2 DOPE:** Weedheads are some of the most innovative motherfuckers on the earth. I mean, I grew up ... when my mother was pregnant with

me, she was smokin' weed. I got a relative that lives out in the country that grows weed. My mom would, every season, go out and cultivate it. There would be a garbage bag of weed in my ma's closet, you know what I'm sayin'? Freaky buds, freaky buds ....

**VIOLENT J:** I think weed is such a fresh thing, and it's also a scary thing. It can be a dangerous thing when you first start smokin'—you might act dumb. But other than that, once you become a smoker, it's just like a gift—it's just like a fresh-assed thing, just a feelin', it's just *there* for you. Weed's a cool thing, man.

**If ICP could smoke weed with any person or group of persons, living or dead, who would it be?**

**VIOLENT J:** One more thing about weed ... [laughs]. What was I gonna say? Weed is like music, you know what I'm saying? And it's also like fuckin' a chick—it's these crazy, over-the-top experiences, buzzes, little joys, that are out there in life that you can't explain, they're like the supernatural, you know? Love—how can you explain that shit? You know what I mean? The feeling of fucking, or the feeling ....

**A miracle [referring to their hit "Miracles"]?**

**VIOLENT J:** Yeah, man, absolutely—some kind of weird miracle. But I'm just saying those experiences, those emotions that come natural with life, that shit is dope, and weed is one of them—for relaxation, it's a chill pill, or it's whatever you need it to be. Some people, it's courage—whatever their joy is, whatever they personally get out of it, it's just *there* for you. It's a pep. That's my official statement. Straight up.



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Violent J hits the Hatchet Joint, rolled entirely with organic Raw Papers.

**Do you guys remember the first time you ever smoked weed together?**

VIOLENT J: I think it was in 2000. [Violent J had previously explained that he came late to smoking weed, and that his first experience was with 2 Dope on an ICP tour.] It was fucked up. We smoked out—I think it was Denny's or something like that—and, uh, I was in a daze, and there was like a ... *phewwww*, it was two dudes, and they were with two transvestites ....

SHAGGY 2 DOPE: That was in Denver.

VIOLENT J: And they were just sitting in the booth behind us, you know, and they were just having this discussion. But the transvestites looked really good, you know what I'm saying? Like at first glance, that was a fine-assed chick, but it was a fucking dude, so, ah .... I know this thing's shit—I know it's 2011, and I know that shit is no problem, but this was happening the first time I ever smoked, and it was in a booth next to me, and I just wanted to go to the two dudes ....

SHAGGY 2 DOPE: They were just hollering—hollering like they were hollering at two broads, trying to hit that shit ....

VIOLENT J: I couldn't get it out of my mind—I just wanted to say to the dude, "Man ...."

SHAGGY 2 DOPE: "You know she got a dick, right?"

VIOLENT J: So I felt like the walls were closing in, and I just wanted to fuckin' tell that guy so bad, and I couldn't even think of nothing else: 'If you're gay, that's totally fucking cool, but if you're not gay, you better know those aren't chicks!' That was the kind of shit that was going on in my head, man.

**Another rap you have, which is kind of rare in music, is that, like Ozzy Osbourne and Marilyn Manson before you, people have tried to pin the**

**violent acts of your fans—in this case, a couple of murders—on the Insane Clown Posse.**

SHAGGY 2 DOPE: This is my response every time to that, man: It's like, it don't matter who you are—if you got people listening to what you're saying, there's going to be a bad seed in every bunch. Look at Jack the Ripper—he probably bumped the shit out of Mozart, you know what I'm saying? Did Mozart catch flak for Jack the Ripper stabbin' up some prostitutes?

VIOLENT J: You know, if you listen to hardcore music, maybe it's because you have aggression in you, right? That's why you find that shit soothing. You like hardcore music because maybe you're under some stress, so you like the shit a little fuckin' harder. So there is a chance that maybe people that listen to hardcore music—outta millions of 'em—maybe some are more prone to go out and commit crimes or something as opposed to country fans. I don't fuckin' know.

**So for somebody who's already like that—violent—a violent song is gonna attract them.**

VIOLENT J: I just know we ain't fucking nobody's fucking fault for committing a crime. We're a part of entertainment—when you can't see that, you're sick to begin with. You fucking don't kill somebody because of my record—come on, man, it's not the fuckin' record's fault you're a killer. We're just a rap group, man; we're just entertaining you. We believe in what we're saying, we believe in the Dark Carnival—but if you get some twisted fuckin' illusion out of that and think you need to go kill somebody, *fuck* you ....

SHAGGY 2 DOPE: And you know what the funny part is? Like for all the flak we catch from all these people—"Oh, these people murdered somebody because of your music"—you know how many more reports

we get of people sayin', "Man, you turned my life around—you saved my life!"

**Juggalos are often portrayed as outcasts ....**

VIOLENT J: I think people feel that they're clowns, like maybe that's the way they're treated—like some clown—and it's very real. Maybe they can feel it in our music, by the way our outlook at life is, the way we write. Maybe they see that we're similar to them, and that's where the connection comes in—if they're going through the same kind of shit. We don't talk about having money and the latest, greatest shit, the bomb-ass fucking cars, and the exotic countries to go to—we don't know that shit, we don't rap about that shit. We rap about the aspect of being the picked-on and comin' back from that with a chainsaw, you know what I'm saying? That's *exactly* what the fuck we're about, man, and we express that kind of anger in our writing. It's like "fuck the world," you know what I'm saying?

**Let me ask you about music: What's the song or album or band that inspired each one of you to wanna do this?**

SHAGGY 2 DOPE: As a youngster, like, a little kid, from birth, my ma's house was always the party house. So it was constantly a variety, from Motown to the Beatles to anything you can think of, in my house. And when I started developing my own taste, me and my brother got into rap in the '80s. But like, I would say that the pivotal of all that that made us wanna be rappers is gangsta rap—NWA, Ghetto Boys, shit like that .... We were just like, "These guys are sittin' there talking about bitches and saying, 'I'll shoot this motherfucker up ....'"

VIOLENT J: Easy E ....

SHAGGY 2 DOPE: As opposed to, like, old-school New York shit like Grandmaster Flash, Run DMC, Fat Boys, which was just more party-oriented. When the West came with their gangsta shit ....

VIOLENT J: That was just the dopest, man! And then fucking Paris, this crazy Black Panther rapper, like militant mixed with a gangster, talkin' about devils—he just fuckin' *murders* it. Him, NWA, gangstas running around Compton blastin' people—man, that shit, when that came out .... Easy E with that high, squeaky voice talkin' about "bitches ain't shit ...."

SHAGGY 2 DOPE: "I'm Easy E, I got bitches galore / You may have a lot of bitches, but I have a lot more ...." C'mon, man, how much fresher can you get?

VIOLENT J: We started rapping, making basement tapes [with boom boxes], taking people's instrumentals—hit "play" on the instrumental tape, right over here, and just spit your rap ....

SHAGGY 2 DOPE: Or you can just put your face right in between them boys and hit "record" on this one and "play" on that one and just spit your rap right in the middle. Then he started going out with some broad and she bought him a karaoke machine, and the game was fuckin' *over*, man .... ✨

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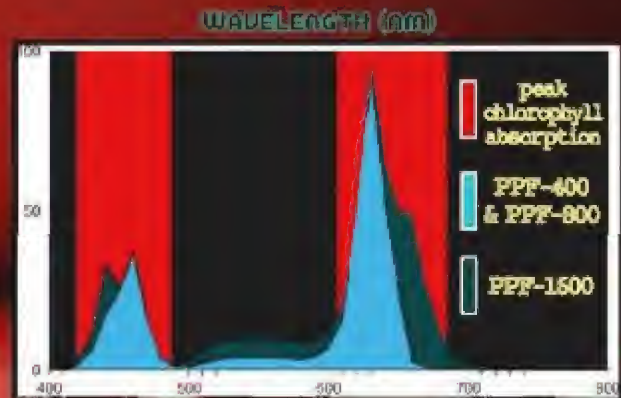
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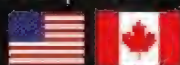
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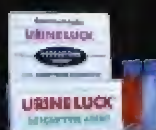
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**AFGHAN KUSH (above)**

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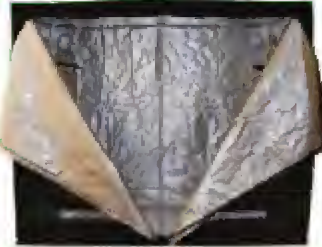
**BIG HIGH COUNTRY (left)**

Keepin' it green in Montana.—Bob



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These nuggz are poppin'. Thanks so much and yeah!—The Weedman



**SCENT OF A GOD BUD**

Smells like sparkling grapefruit juice with a hint of skunk in there. Big-ups, HIGH TIMES, from the East Coast of Canada!—Anthony



**JACK FAMILY PHOTO**

Thanks, HT—it's an honor! Here's a few examples of my (very) Purple Jack.—Air Head





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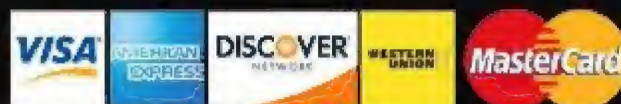


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**GREEN DREAM**

This salad don't need no ranch dressing.—P6



**COLLECTOR'S EDITION** (left)

I love the magazine and this beautiful plant! Check out the gorgeous fall colors!!! This is TGA's Third Dimension.—MattyJ734

**HEADY FOR THE HILLS** (above)

I shot this out in Frisco, CO. It's Durban Poison from a dispensary there.—Justin G.

Pix of the Crop is reader-driven. Your submissions make all the stoners of the world dream of kind nuggets. Send pictures (no Polaroids), tips, questions and stories to: HIGH TIMES, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th floor, New York, NY 10016. Digital photos can be e-mailed to mailbag@hightimes.com and must be hi-res for publication. Remember, by submitting photograph(s) you thereby grant permission to the publisher to reprint photograph(s) in HIGH TIMES, as well as in any other Trans-High Corp. publication.



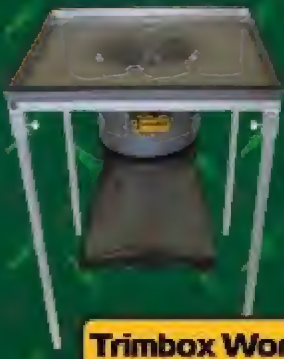
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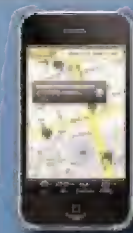
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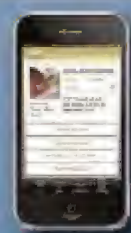
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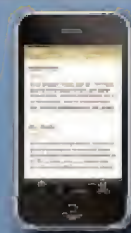
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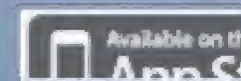
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# RIGHTS WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

Despite resistance, student cannabis activism is growing.

Here at the College of Charleston, I'm often asked: "What is SSDP? What's it all about? 'Schools, Not Prisons' ... Kat, is this some kind of liberal, hippie, pot-smoking organization?"

Starting a chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy in the heart of South Carolina was never going to be an easy feat. Not only would the College of Charleston administration give us difficulties, but it wasn't even certain that we would have a large enough support base to function.

After I discussed the idea with a few close friends in Starbucks one day, CofC SSDP was formed. With nothing but a Facebook group and word of mouth, we planned our first meeting, which we weren't even allowed to hold in a classroom. With a group of 19 interested and passionate students attending, we went around a circle and discussed why drug policy was important to each of us. Given the stories of personal incarceration, friends overdosing and everything in between, it became apparent that the need for this club was stronger than we'd thought.

Within two weeks of our chapter forming, over 220 people had joined our groups on Facebook; as time passed, interest swelled on campus. I began receiving constant emails and contacts from people with music venues, artists and curious students, all



**POLICE OFTEN USE DECEIT WHEN TRYING TO MAKE AN ARREST, AND STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW THEIR RIGHTS.**

(in one all-too-familiar scenario) that when a police officer pulls you over for speeding and then demands to search your car, you do *not* have to consent, and there are all sorts of resources available to teach you how to flex your rights and protect your privacy.

SSDP is an amazing organization that seeks to improve our society by ending the senseless War on Drugs. So join in the fight and help the students at your college or within your community better understand their rights as citizens. One other question posed to me time and time again: "Man, how hard was it to start a chapter in the South?" But if we can do it in Charleston, SC, it can be done anywhere.

—Kat Humphries, founder & president of CofC SSDP

wanting to know what SSDP really stood for. It's not as some would like to label us: SSDP doesn't encourage drug use, nor does it advocate that students make unsafe choices. Instead, we simply look to help those in need, those people being harmed by our current drug policies.

Anyone who comes to our campus, sits in on a local court case or walks down the busy streets of Charleston at night can tell you: Drugs are prevalent, and they must be addressed. Then, too, the police often use deceit when trying to make an arrest, and students need to know their rights. SSDP has taught me

## freedom fighter



## GEORGIA ON OUR MIND

An activist mom in Denver blazes a trail.

Georgia Edson represents an incredibly important and very specialized niche in our movement: non-pot-smoking moms who support ending marijuana prohibition. Coming out of the closet as a supporter of marijuana legalization is tough enough for mothers; it's not the kind of conversation brought up easily at day care, PTA meetings or the kids' soccer games. The social stigma that marijuana carries, coupled with the "What about the children?" scaremongering, can be brutal. Mothers (or fathers) who support legalization are branded as "potheads" and bad parents who are sending their kids the wrong message.

Over the past year, Georgia Edson didn't just tell her friends, family and co-workers that marijuana prohibition should be abolished; she told the whole world and then stood up to do something about it. However, at this year's NORML conference in Denver, she did admit: "If, a year ago, you would have said I would have been the president and chief operating officer of a medical-marijuana business, I wouldn't have believed it."

In addition to operating the Herbal Connections dispensary in Denver, Georgia is a member of the steering committee for the NORML Women's Alliance. She is also co-host of *The Mile High NORML Show* on the NORML Network ([live.norml.org](http://live.norml.org)).

"Our number-one priority as parents," Georgia explains, "is to provide a safe environment for our children, and we can't do that if we're in prison. But the world is never going to be the way we want it to be if we don't stand up and talk, in numbers, about our relationship with cannabis."

So why does Georgia, a non-pot-smoker, stand up for those who do? She answered simply: "Because it's the right thing to do." —Russ Belville, NORML Outreach Coordinator

## ASK DR MITCH

Dr. Mitch,  
Who made the first tincture?

P.D. Listener

Hi P.D.,

Dr. William O'Shaughnessy, an Irish physician who did studies in India in the 1830s, gets the credit, but he stated it was possible that the Indians had already experimented with extracting cannabinoids using alcohol. Although many of the religions in India discouraged drinking alcohol back then (and still do today), it was definitely available in the country at the time.

Some of my Australian buddies always mix hash with tobacco when making a spliff. Is this a good idea?

Colin Ham

Hi Colin,

I'm concerned about the respiratory effects. Holding hits is a common habit among tokers, even though keeping smoke in the lungs doesn't really create enhanced effects. However, it does give tars and other junk more time to accumulate on the inside of the lungs. This can be particularly troublesome with tobacco smoke. I hope this habit soon goes the way of the dinosaurs.

Can you give me the lowdown on K2, Spice and such?

Cal Dreamer

Hi Cal,

Chemists designed synthetic cannabinoids that are a little like natural THC to use in studying the nervous systems of rats. Though these were never meant for human consumption, companies sprayed them on various herbs and put them up for sale. They are probably intoxicating, but we have no idea what else they do. In any event, synthetic cannabinoids have proven troublesome, so stick with the plant that has a 5,000-year history of safe use.

Are the hops in beer related to marijuana?

BB Brewer

Hi BB,

Hops and cannabis belong to the same biological family: *Cannabaceae*. Both have aromatic, symmetrical flowers that come in male and female varieties, and both can kill microbes. Also, some hops plants have leaves with five lobes just like the cannabis leaf. Nevertheless, I don't recommend vaporizing hops.

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. He is the author of *Understanding Marijuana* and *The Parents' Guide to Marijuana*. Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at [420research@gmail.com](mailto:420research@gmail.com).



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# ROLL IT UP AND ROAST IT

Presenting Hempie Chef Raquel's pancetta-stuffed tenderloin. By Murphy Green

"When vegetarians fall, they fall *hard* ...."

I stood at the meat counter, eyeing a display of ruby-colored flanks and fillets both enthralling and intimidating. After 15 years of meat abstinence, I was going to indulge in a feast that some would consider sinful on many levels—a tenderloin stuffed with pancetta and breadcrumbs, soaked in cannabis butter. I'd already enlisted the help of a couple of friends, my meat experts, who promised to supervise the preparation of our beautiful hunk of loin, lest my inexperience at roasting beasts spoil our meal. Keep in mind that the tenderloin in this recipe weighs in at a whopping six and a half pounds of flesh, cut into two halves—a main course intended to feed a crowd of ravenous stoners. So be advised that you can get a smaller three-pound tenderloin and simply cut this recipe in half.

The preparation (including stuffing and



This roast was wrapped in pancetta and stuffed with pot butter.

"rolling" the roast) takes about an hour, plus at least 25 minutes of oven time, so crank the tunes in the kitchen, pour some wine, roast a bowl and make it a party. This recipe comes to us from Hempie Chef Raquel, who wowed the HIGH TIMES crew with this signature dish during a rip-roaring party at Dennis Peron's Castro Castle. ✨

## POT-AND PANCETTA-STUFFED BEEF TENDERLOIN WITH PORT MUSHROOMS

- 18 oz sliced pancetta
- 6 oz chopped pancetta
- 6 ½ lbs boneless beef tenderloin, trimmed and halved crosswise
- 5 tbsp THC oil (or melted cannabis-infused butter)
- 4 tbsp cannabutter
- ½ cup water

- 2 cups coarsely ground fresh breadcrumbs
- 1 ¼ cups finely chopped fresh parsley
- 3 tbsp fresh thyme leaves
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp pepper
- 1 ½ lbs mushrooms, sliced
- ½ cup tawny or ruby port wine

Prepare the cannabutter by melting 1 pound of butter in a large saucepan. Add 1 ounce of finely ground cannabis and simmer over low heat for one hour. Remove from heat and let cool, then strain using a metal strainer, pressing the cannabis against the strainer to wring out all of the cannabis-infused butter.

Preheat the oven to 475°F. In an extra-large skillet, warm 1 tablespoon of THC oil, swirling to coat the pan. Cook the pancetta slices undisturbed over medium heat for about two to three minutes to render the fat out of the pancetta. Do not overcook, as these slices will later top your tenderloin in the oven. When ready, transfer the pancetta to a plate and set aside.

Using the same skillet, heat 3 tablespoons of THC oil over medium heat. Season the tenderloin halves with salt and pepper, add to the skillet, and cook six to eight minutes on each side until browned. Use a spatula to press the tenderloin down to get a good sear on the meat. Transfer to a work surface and allow the tenderloin to cool.

In the same skillet, cook the chopped pancetta in 1 tablespoon of THC oil, stirring until lightly golden (about five minutes). Add the cannabutter and allow to melt, then transfer the mixture to a medium bowl. Add a half cup of water to the skillet and cook, scraping up all the yummy browned bits; then pour into the pancetta bowl along with the breadcrumbs, parsley, thyme, and one-half teaspoon each of salt and pepper.

Set the skillet aside.

Arrange four 12-inch pieces of kitchen twine 3 inches apart on a cutting board, running parallel to the board's front edge. Place one tenderloin half in the center, perpendicular to the strings. Slice the tenderloin lengthwise, three-quarters of the way through, so you can open the meat like a book; next, working from the center out, slice each half lengthwise again, three-quarters of the way through, opening the meat outward so that the split tenderloin consists of four attached panels. Spread half of the breadcrumb stuffing across the top surface of the meat, leaving a 1-inch border. Then, starting at the short end, roll up the meat into its original shape with the stuffing now inside; lay the pancetta slices in an overlapping pattern on top, then secure with twine. Transfer the meat to a large roasting pan. Repeat this process for the other half of the tenderloin.

Insert a meat thermometer into the center of the stuffed tenderloin and roast in the oven until it registers 130°F on the thermometer for medium rare (about 25 minutes). Transfer to a work surface and tent with foil. Pour the pan juices into the reserved skillet, add mushrooms, season with salt and pepper to taste, and cook over medium heat until browned (about 10 minutes). Stir in the port for one minute.

After the meat has rested, slice the tenderloin and spoon the mushroom sauce on top. **Stones 10 to 12.**



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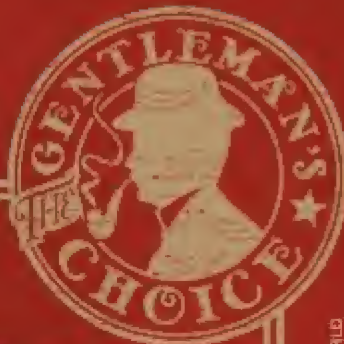
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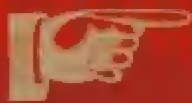
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# FACTS BE DAMNED!

The Feds insist that pot-law reform is driving kids to take up. Not a chance.

The federal government appears incapable of telling the truth when it comes to marijuana and marijuana policy. The Drug Czar's latest lie: that the increasing public discourse acknowledging the inherent failures of pot prohibition is stimulating marijuana use in teens.

"If young people don't really perceive that [marijuana] is dangerous or of any concern, it usually means there'll be an uptick in the number of kids who are using. And sure enough, in 2009, that's exactly what we did see," Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske recently claimed. "We have been telling young people, particularly for the past couple years, that marijuana is medicine. So it shouldn't be a great surprise to us that young people are now misperceiving the dangers or the risks around marijuana."

Balderdash. The national debate regarding the medical use of cannabis began in earnest in 1996, when California voters legalized the physician-supervised use of the plant. Since then, 15 additional states and the District of Columbia have passed similar laws. During virtually this entire time, teen marijuana use has fallen nationally.

Furthermore, according to federal statistics, between 2003 and 2008, self-reported monthly cannabis use among 12- to 17-year-olds dropped precipitously in every state that had enacted medical-marijuana legislation. In five states—Alaska, Montana, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico and Washington—it was reported that use fell by more than 20 percent during this period; in Hawaii, teen pot use fell by more than 30 percent.

Others have publicized this decline as well. Investigators at the Texas A&M Health Science Center reported in *The International Journal of Drug Policy* that "the introduction of medical cannabis laws was not associated with an increase in cannabis use. Consistent with other studies of the liberalization of cannabis laws, medical cannabis laws do not appear to increase use of the drug."

Marijuana-use rates as a percentage of the overall population vary only slightly among states despite their remarkably varying degrees of enforcement and punishment. Several states with the most lenient marijuana-possession laws—such as Nebraska, where possession of up to 1 ounce is a civil citation, and Mississippi, where possession of up to 30 grams is a summons—have some of the lowest rates of marijuana use, while other states with strict penalties report comparatively high levels of use. In short, the drug's legality plays little to no role in individual decisions to consume or abstain from cannabis. In fact, according to the federal government's annual "Monitoring the Future" study, more than eight out of 10 students in 12th grade report that marijuana is "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get—a percentage that has remained constant for three and a half decades. So much for the notion that criminal prohibition has limited access to marijuana among the nation's youth. It never has and it never will.

Of course, no parent would ever want a child to abuse marijuana. But the most effective way to keep it out of teens' hands isn't through criminal prohibition; it's through legalization, regulation and public education. Indeed, the Drug Czar readily acknowledges the effectiveness of these principles in reducing the use of alcohol and tobacco by teens, with the latter falling to record lows in recent years. Yet Kerlikowske maintains that this same strategy "is not in his vocabulary" when it comes to pot.

Why? Author Upton Sinclair, who wrote *The Jungle*, perhaps said it best: "It is difficult to get a man to understand something, when his salary depends upon his not understanding it."  
—Paul Armentano, deputy director of NORML and co-author of *Marijuana Is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink?* (Chelsea Green, 2009).  
Visit [norml.org](http://norml.org).

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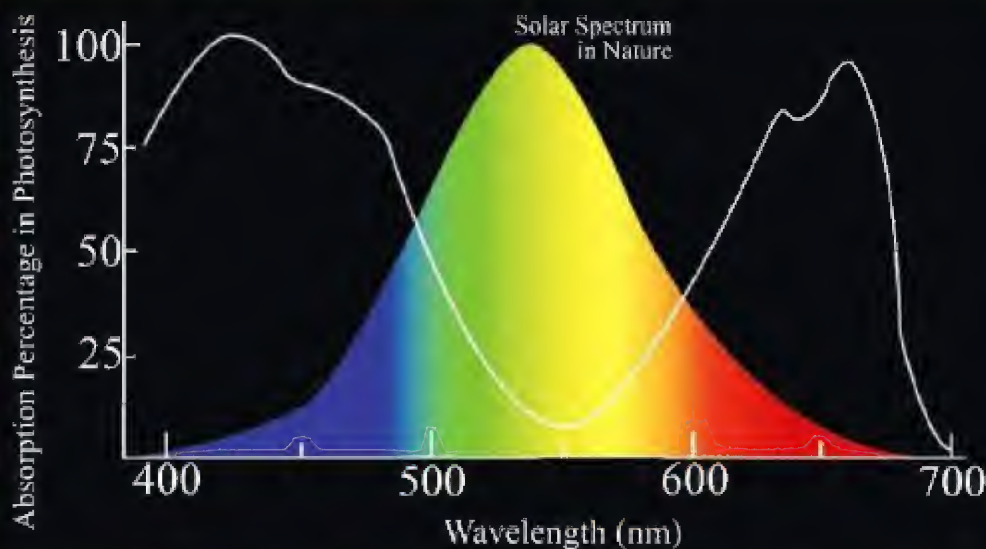
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We all know how important light is to the production of cannabis. In order to optimize the photosynthetic activity of cannabis plants, one must understand how the plant captures and uses light energy to create plant tissues and compounds, such as glucose (for food) and cannabinoids like THC (for us). Light intensity and light quality—i.e., wavelength—both play an extremely significant role in photosynthesis and cannabis growth. In this article, we will examine how this occurs and which components of light play the biggest parts.

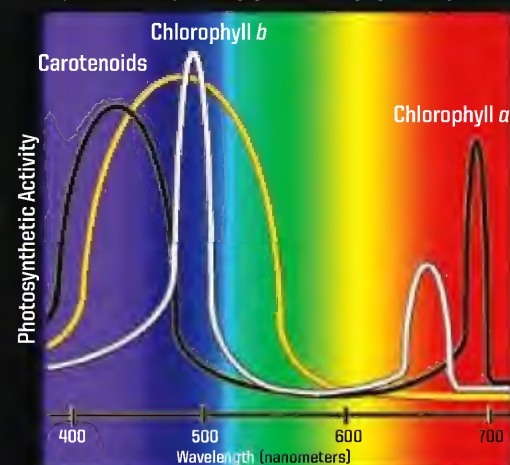
BY HERB SPADOWSKI, PH.D.

# LIGHT THROUGH THE EYE

**Figure 2:** This absorption curve shows both the Sun's natural spectrum and plants' ability to process it efficiently.



**Figure 4:** Photosynthetic activity of leaf pigments during light absorption.



# S OF CANNABIS

**Figure 1:** As distance between peaks changes, so does light's visible color.

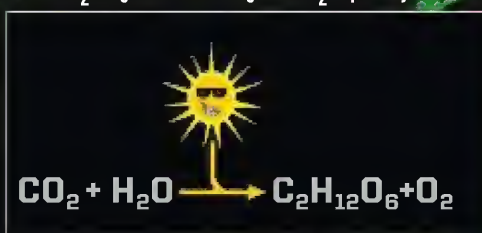


## WHAT IS LIGHT?

Light has the characteristics of both a wave and a particle. Figure 1 shows the wavelengths of red and blue light. The distance between the peaks of the wave is measured in nanometers (nm). As that distance or frequency changes, so does the color of the light. The color red, for example, resides at one end of the visible spectrum and is the result of light with a wavelength of 620 to 750 nm. Blue light resides at the opposite end and has a shorter wavelength of 450 to 475 nm. Light is also produced in wavelengths that are out of the visible range of our eyes, such as ultraviolet (UV) light, and this light also factors into plant processes, especially at the end of the flowering period.

Anything that has color or pigments, such as plant leaves, reflects or absorbs light. The light that is reflected off an object hits our eyes, causing us to see that color. The primary wavelength of light reflected by cannabis is green, due in large part to pigments such as chlorophyll *a* and *b* in the leaves; what we don't see as reflected light is mostly absorbed by the leaves. Cannabis leaves absorb most forms of visible light except green and yellow. The majority of the reflected light is green, so the reflected yellow

**Figure 3:** Water, CO<sub>2</sub> & light convert to sugar and O<sub>2</sub> in photosynthesis.



low light is not noticeable.

However, leaves can begin to turn yellow if plants are not healthy. This occurs because the unhealthy leaves don't contain enough chlorophyll molecules. Due to the lack of chlorophyll, green light isn't reflected by leaves and yellow becomes the dominant reflected wavelength. The same phenomenon happens every fall when the leaves of deciduous trees begin to break down chlorophyll; the trees then pull the energy-rich breakdown products out of the leaves before they drop for winter. The result of the lost chlorophyll molecules are the bright reds, oranges and yellows of the fall season.

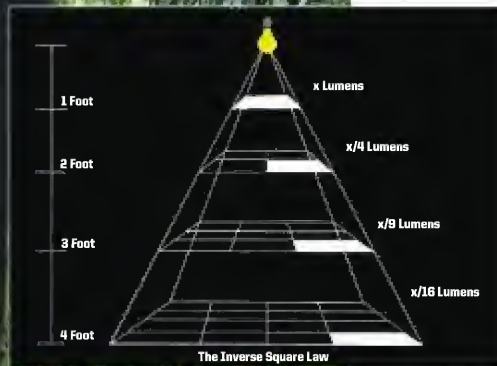
As stated, light also has the characteristics of a particle. These particles of light are called photons. When the sun is shining or there's a light on, photons of light are pouring down like raindrops. The higher the intensity (strength) of the light, the greater the quantity of photons emitted; this is why keeping artificial light close to plant canopies indoors is so vital. Each type of photon has a specific wavelength that it travels along. So a bulb that is said to be abundant in blue light would emit photons with wavelengths from 450 to 475 nm.

## PHOTOSYNTHETIC PIGMENTS IN CANNABIS

The amazing thing about plants, including cannabis, is that they take the energy from photons of light and convert it into molecules of glucose. This process is called *photosynthesis*, which simply means "synthesis with light." Figure 3 shows the basic chemical equation for photosynthesis. Light is responsible for driving this reaction, which is actually more complicated than the equation shown above. There are at least 50 known intermediate steps for the conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> into glucose (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>6</sub>). These 50 intermediate steps have been discovered by many scientists; there are likely to be many more to be discovered.

During photosynthesis, cannabis captures photons of light using several different molecules. The primary molecule responsible for this is chlorophyll, which occurs in two main forms: chlorophyll *a* and *b*. Chlorophyll *a* has maximum photosynthetic activity when photons of light are at wavelengths of approximately 430 to 660 nm, while chlorophyll *b* has maximum activity at wavelengths of 450 to 640 nm (Figure 4). Notice that in Figure 4, when the curves for both chlorophyll *a* and *b* are in the green-light portion of the graph, their photosynthetic activity decreases greatly. Again, this is because chlorophyll *a* and *b* do not absorb, but rather reflect, green light. It should also be noted that Figure 2 depicts the sun's natural spectrum on Earth, which shows that wavelengths around 450 nm (blues) and 650 nm (reds) are the least abundant in nature. This has led some scientists to conclude that the reason there's higher absorption activity in leaves at these wavelengths is because the plants have evolved to become more efficient at processing what is least available to them.

The second most abundant light-absorbing compounds in cannabis are carotenoids, which are also shown in Figure 4. Carotenoids are important for photosynthesis in all plants. Notice they have very low photosynthetic activity in the areas of yellow, orange and red light. In addition to playing an important role in photosynthesis, these compounds are also responsible for the color of yellow flowers, orange carrots and red tomatoes.



Vertical grow systems are a great way to improve light intensity within your garden while also making use of all light emitted.

# LIGHT

## THE LIGHT-HARVESTING COMPLEX

The pigments discussed make up a highly complex structure called the light-harvesting or antennae complex, which exists in all plants (Figure 5). This complex is composed of about 200 to 300 chlorophyll molecules, numerous carotenoids, and several other light-sensitive molecules and important proteins. All of these components are arranged around a central chlorophyll molecule called the reaction center. The reaction center is responsible for the conversion of light energy into chemical energy through the transfer of a single electron.

This process works as follows: When one of the light-sensitive molecules, such as chlorophyll, is struck by a photon of light, it enters into an excited state. As it returns back to its normal state, the energy is transferred toward the reaction center. It takes many photons striking many molecules in the light-harvesting complex to reach the goal of transferring a single electron to the reaction center. Picture one person trying to push a boulder that will not move; if the number of people pushing that boulder increases, together they will create enough force to roll it. The same action occurs during photosynthesis, whereby energy from a number of light photons is required to create enough energy for the transfer of a single electron. This electron transfer is the very first chemical step in the creation of sugar [glucose] from carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and water (H<sub>2</sub>O) during photosynthesis. Furthermore, this sugar is the primary source of energy for the reactions and biochemical processes that will lead to the glistening, resinous THC glands that top your cannabis buds.

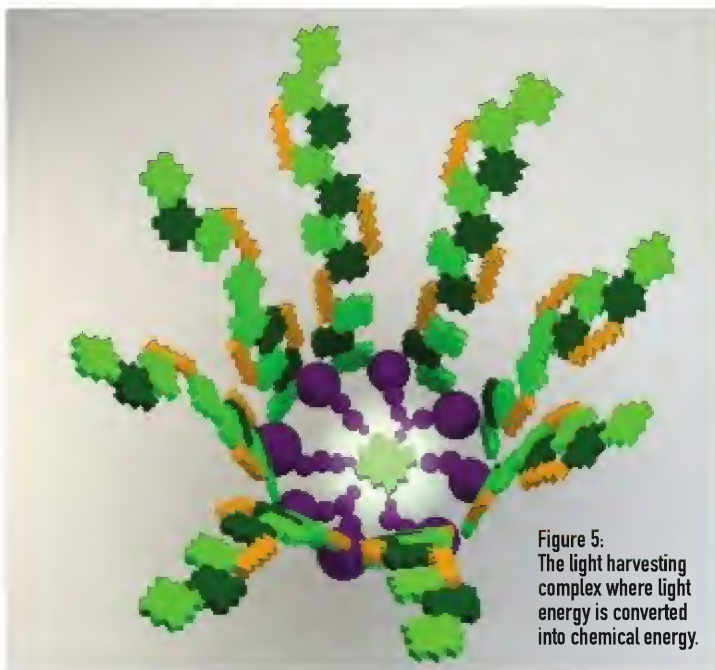


Figure 5: The light harvesting complex where light energy is converted into chemical energy.

## LIGHT INTENSITY

Now we understand a little bit more about how cannabis plants capture light photons and convert their energy into chemical energy and biomass. How then, as a grower of cannabis, can you maximize plant efficiency and yields with commercially available lights? When it comes to light intensity (i.e., quantity of light), the answer is pretty simple: more light. It is

difficult to overdo the quantity of light for cannabis production (always assuming that you have proper temperature controls in place). Generally, the more lights you have and the more powerful those lights, the better your light intensity (though not so much better for your electric bill).

But adding more lamps or using higher wattages isn't the only way to increase light intensity. Keeping lamps close to the garden canopy will increase the intensity of light reaching your plants and make more efficient use of the electricity you're paying for. The inverse-square law dictates that a specified physical quantity or strength is inversely proportional to the square of the distance from its source. In the case of light, this basically means that the strength of light decreases exponentially with every foot of distance between the lamp and your plants.

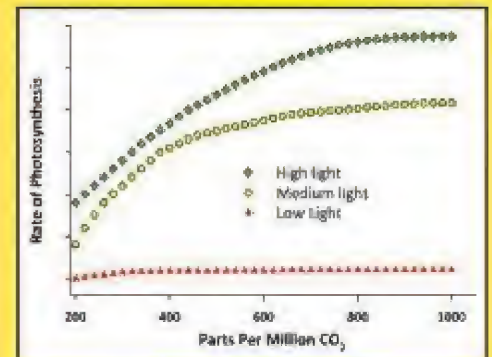


Figure 6: The effects of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations at low, medium and high intensity light.

## High Light & CO<sub>2</sub>

As shown in the photosynthetic equation (Figure 3), carbon dioxide is required for growth and photosynthesis in plants. In many grow setups, light intensity is typically very high and the production occurs indoors. With high (intense) light and/or contained conditions, it is likely that carbon dioxide will quickly become a limiting factor and put a bottleneck on yields. Figure 6 shows the effect of light and carbon dioxide on the rate of photosynthesis. In a normal atmosphere, carbon dioxide is at 400 parts per million. If your grow operation is in an enclosed area that contains many cannabis plants, all of them constantly consuming CO<sub>2</sub> for photosynthesis, there's a very high possibility that the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> is actually going to be lower than 400 ppm. When this occurs, you'll be limiting the productivity of your plants. For this reason, it's recommended in these situations that you implement a CO<sub>2</sub> supplementation system to maximize photosynthesis and yields.



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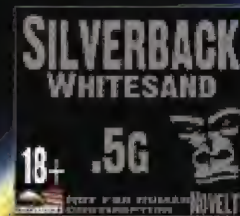
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These light systems can carry varying spectrum bulbs for a broader light quality. Notice the differing light colors on the garden canopy.

**EFFECTS OF LIGHT QUALITY**

The spectral quality or wavelength of light is another important factor when it comes to the productivity and quality of cannabis—and it’s also one of the most complicated. In many different types of plants, the quality of light can affect such things as disease resistance, plant anatomy and morphology, nutrient uptake and the formation of secondary compounds (such as THC).

A number of scientific studies have shown that blue light has an influence on the number of chloroplasts (which contain the light-harvesting complex and chlorophyll) and the stomatal opening. Stomata are the part of the leaf that controls gas exchange and therefore how much carbon dioxide is available to the leaf for photosynthesis. Many other studies have shown that plants under white LED light (which contains *all* the colors of the spectrum) grow better than plants under red LED light alone, blue LED light alone, or even red and blue LED lights in combination. These studies re-emphasize the importance of full-spectrum light in our gardens.

Another study—this one performed at Indiana University by two researchers named Mahlberg and Hemphill—tested THC content in the leaves of cannabis plants grown under sunlight, red light, blue light, green light or complete darkness. The experiment revealed that the plants grown under sunlight had the highest THC content. The THC concentration decreased successively in the plants grown under red light, blue light and green light; the plants grown in darkness had the lowest THC content. Additionally, under every light treatment, the researchers found that the leaves receiving the highest quantity of light had the highest concentration of THC. Although the researchers weren’t specifically looking to evaluate THC content, they did discover that wavelength, or the spectral quality of the light source (i.e., full spectrum versus a single or limited spectrum), is an important factor for THC production, and also that shading can also lower THC concentrations.

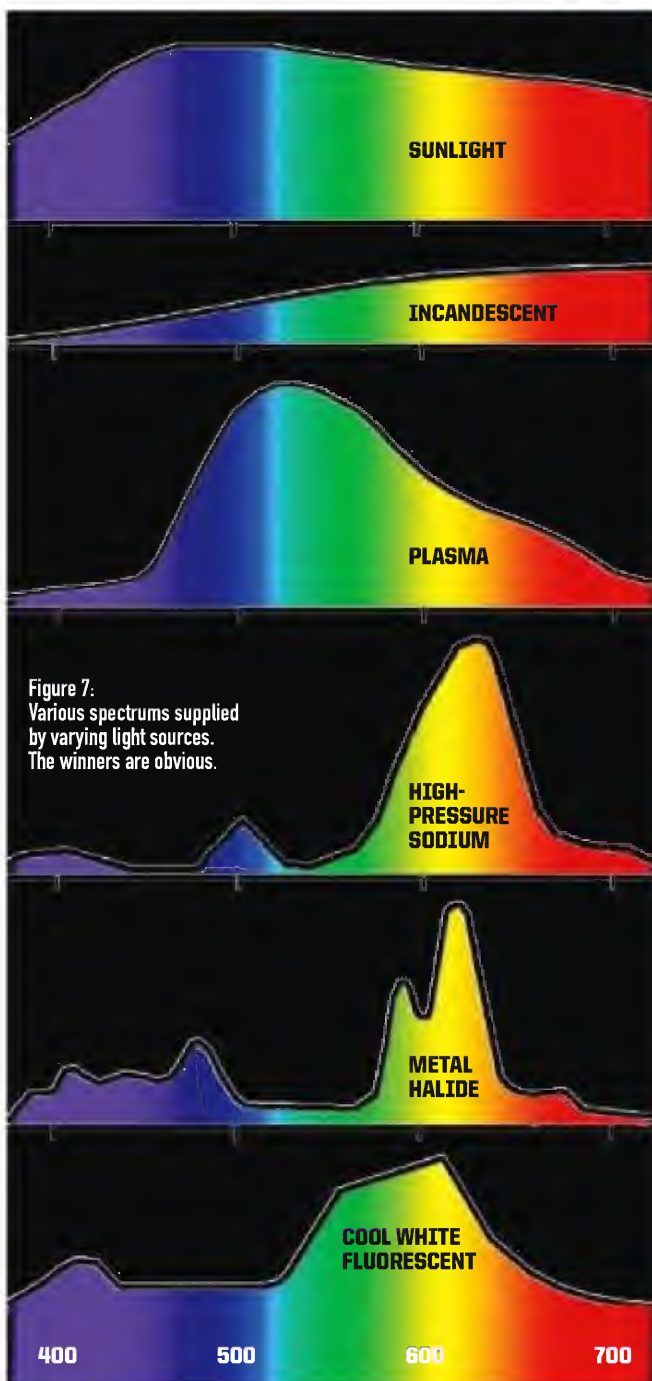


Figure 7: Various spectrums supplied by varying light sources. The winners are obvious.

**CHOOSING LIGHTS**

With all of this information at hand, choosing a light or combination of lights for growing can be a daunting task. Figure 7 shows most of the possibilities for light sources, as well as the distribution of spectral wavelengths produced by each.

Notice that sunlight has by far the broadest possible spectrum of light available—for horticultural purposes, it’s the very definition of full-spectrum light. This characteristic, along with the high intensity and raw power of sunlight, is why this source of light is the best for cannabis production ... not to mention that it’s free! But as we all know, this isn’t always an option, and plants must often be grown indoors under artificially lit conditions. Therefore, choosing a combination of lights that matches the spectral ratio of the sun is the best option for your plants.

All of the light sources shown in Figure 7 have been around for some time, with the exception of plasma lights. These are the latest and greatest light source for indoor cannabis production and produce a spectrum similar to the sun (bear in mind that sunlight is also plasma light). These lights are also highly energy-efficient. Currently, the main problem with plasma lights is their price, which can reach several thousand dollars. With increased demand and manufacturing, however, expect these prices to drop over time.





Purple looking plants under LED lights. Closer inspection reveals problematic developments.

## Light-Emitting Diodes (LEDs)

LEDs are one of the most recent lighting products available for cannabis cultivation. They are unique in that they can be designed to produce a narrow spectrum or a specific quality of light. The two most common wavelengths available are red and blue. If you refer back to Figure 4, you can see that the red and blue areas of the graph are where the highest rate of photosynthetic activity occurs. We've already discussed how these two color spectrums are the least abundant in nature, which forces plants to be most efficient at processing them. But there's another factor to be considered, at least with the red wavelengths, and this is the fact that red light carries with it the most photons out of any of the spectral wavelengths. LED manufacturers cite this as one of the reasons that LED lamps are made with these two types of light and sold for cannabis and indoor plant production.

Still, feeding plants only one or two spectral wavelengths would be like feeding a child only oranges and eggs. For instance, giving plants only red or blue light would throw off biological processes on a molecular level within the plant. Red light alone would cause severe stretching; blue light alone would slow the photosynthetic mechanism to a crawl. No matter how you slice it, plants need full-spectrum light, which they've evolved under for millions of years, to achieve

their natural and maximum potential.

Another problem with the limited range of LEDs is the altered look of the plant under these wavelengths. Diseases and nutritional problems that are easily distinguished under other lights can be hard or impossible to distinguish due to the lack of a complete visible-light spectrum when growing with LEDs. Other problems include the fact that LEDs are mono-directional and do not emanate light like HID bulbs. This is why reflectors can't be used with them to help disperse light throughout a garden, and why

hundreds and sometimes even thousands of diodes are needed to adequately cover gardens.

Still, there are pluses to LED lamps, such as their low power

draw and the fact that they radiate very little heat—both attractive characteristics for indoor growers. They also contain no hazardous materials such as mercury and have a longer lifetime than incandescent, fluorescent, metal halide (MH) and high-pressure sodium (HPS) lights. LEDs may have a place in our gardens, but they are best used as supplemental lighting along with standard high-intensity discharge (HID) bulbs. Big agricultural greenhouses in Europe, India and North America have started to incorporate lines of red LED lights throughout garden canopies to supplement overhead HID lighting and increase photon quantities. But with the coming of true plasma light, it is likely that both the LED fad and our HID bulbs may soon be a thing of the past.

**Supplementing HID lighting with broad spectrum lighting will go a long way towards healthy and productive plants.**

So now you might be asking, "How can I mimic the quality of the sun and efficiently—at low cost—produce the best cannabis possible?" Unfortunately, there is no simple answer to this. There's a good deal of anecdotal information all over the Internet on which wavelengths are best for cannabis and THC production, but most of this information is not proven and was likely developed under less-than-scientific conditions. Think back to the light-harvesting complex: If you're using only red light to grow your plants, there's a lot of light-absorbing molecules that respond to many different wavelengths just sitting around doing nothing. This decreases the efficiency of your plants' photosynthetic system and production.

This is why, as a grower, you need a system of lights that best mimics the quality of sunlight (while also staying within your budget). Remember to keep your lamps close to the garden canopy and utilize proper ventilation for atmosphere and temperature control. Putting lights on light movers—especially when using a combination of different bulbs—is also a great idea. And supplementing HID lighting with broader-spectrum lighting will go a long way toward ensuring that your plants are happy, healthy and, most importantly, productive.

Happy growing! ✨

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ANSWERS BY DANNY DANKO

### DRAIN TO WASTE

I've been growing hydroponically using a flood-and-drain system for some time and would love to see some info on drain-to-waste systems. Are they more or less efficient? What are the reasons that some growers choose to run nutrients through only once?

*David H.*

Dear David,

Hydroponic systems can utilize either recirculation of the nutrient solution, such as your flood-and-drain unit, or drain-to-waste for watering purposes. The difference is that the first method waters your roots over and over with the same liquid, while the second uses it once and then discards it. Both systems have their benefits as well as some drawbacks.

Recirculating systems such as flood-and-drain simplify the watering process by reusing nutrient solution over and over for one to two weeks before it's replaced. The pH level and amount of nutrients (in parts per million, or ppm) will vary and change as the plants use up water and food. Reservoirs must be replenished with fresh water and nutrients and monitored at all times for variations in conditions.

The advantage of using a drain-to-waste system is that it prevents the spread of diseases,

pathogens and root rot, while also negating the typical pH fluctuations of recirculating hydroponic systems. Drain-to-waste systems work best in gardens with a few plants in large containers rather than many smaller plants bunched together. Even though they sound like they're inefficient (partly thanks to the word "waste" in the name), these systems can actually end up costing less due to the level of control the grower has over the feeding process. If you use only a little more than the plants need, the actual "waste" is minimal in a well-dialed-in system.

### REGENERATION STATION

I'm a very inexperienced grower, and HIGH TIMES has been very helpful in assisting my learning. This is why I've come with another question. I'm approaching my very first harvest, and some of my friends tell me I can simply cut off the buds and let the plant flower again. I was wondering if this is possible, and if so, how should I properly cut them off without damaging the plant too much to reflower?

*GreenD*

Dear GreenD,

It is possible to harvest a plant while leaving enough leaves on it to regenerate, or revert back to its vegetative stage, allowing it to be

flowered again. However, this isn't really recommended because your harvest will be substantially diminished—but it can be done. It's also something that growers do in order to retain and save genetics that might otherwise be lost in order to take clones and keep the strain alive.

As for how to do it: simply clip off the flowers you plan to harvest while leaving some fan leaves intact on the stem and branches. Put the plant under 18 to 22 hours of light per day, and you should see some vegetative growth begin to peek out from the nodes where the leaves meet the stalks. Once you've got enough new growth (it will take several weeks at least), flower the plant under 12 hours of light per day in order to reap your second harvest from the same plant.

### HYDRO SWITCH

First, I'd like to thank you for the awesome job and all the great things you've done for readers since taking over from Jorge. (And if Jorge's reading this: Thank you also! I've read all your books and watched your DVDs with pleasure.) Now to my question, Danny: I've just finished my first year of growing, which was in soil. Now I'm planning to switch to hydro. I've been thinking about deep-water culture (DWC), but what's the



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Dear Danko



Cannabis plants grow best under full sunlight.

best way to go from clone to DWC? Should I start in rockwool cubes and then move to expanded clay, and if so, how do I do it? I'm concerned about the roots not being long enough to get to the nutrient solution. Thanks!

Zattri

Dear Zattri,

Thanks for the kind words about myself and Jorge—I'm sure he'll appreciate reading what you wrote, and I know I do. It's rewarding to hear that our words are helping more people to grow higher-quality cannabis.

Switching from soil to hydro means paying attention to and monitoring several new factors, such as the temperature and ppm of your nutrient solution. Keep in mind that growing hydroponically is a less-forgiving technique, so problems need solving much more quickly than in a soil or soilless mix. Water temperatures should stay between 65°F and 75°F, so you'll need a heater or chiller to maintain them.

As for planting in a DWC system, most units will accommodate the youngest plants by allowing nutrient solution to reach the bottom of the net pots early in the plant's life. Aided by the mist generated by aerating the solution, roots will quickly grow down into the oxy-

genated, nutrient-rich water, and the plants above them will exhibit explosive growth as long as all the conditions are kept optimal.

You can start in rockwool cubes, as you describe, and then transplant into grow rocks as the roots pop out from the bottom of the cubes. The most important thing is to never let your roots dry out—so if the nutrient solution doesn't reach them, hand-water the plants daily until they dangle down far enough to reach the solution themselves.

### SUNSHINE DAYDREAM

Hey, Danny Danko! I have a couple questions. I'm planning on growing in a place that gets only 12 hours of outdoor light all year round. It also gets a lot of rain. I'm afraid that doing this in a greenhouse might be hard because of the heat (temperatures are around 80°F all year) and humidity (75% and above). Indoor isn't much of an option because the island doesn't import grow lights. What would be the best way to grow here? If plants need 18 hours of light to vegetate and this island only has 12 hours of light all year round, how can I get my plants to grow before they bloom?

PNI.Hippiedude

Dear PNI,

From your signature, I'm guessing you live on the island of Pohnpei, in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Your proximity to the equator is both a blessing and a curse when it comes to cultivation, and you can say the same for the large amounts of rainfall and humidity. Your best bet for growing where you are is either the greenhouse (with vents for cooling) or outdoors using *sativa*-dominant genetics that are acclimated to equatorial areas such as Southeast Asia from a similar latitude as your island. These plants will naturally vegetate during their earliest stages of growth and only begin flowering after they've been able to develop a root system and some branching.

If you do choose the greenhouse, you could get a dehumidifier to try to lower moisture levels, and then rain won't be an issue either. With proper venting, you should be able to keep the greenhouse around the same temperature as outside, but you'll have more control over the elements. You can also use any strong light during the dark cycle at night for a few hours in order to keep the plants in their vegetative stage for as long as you desire.

### TUCK AND ROLL

I've been growing with some old military buddies for a few years now, and we've been having an ongoing debate: Should we remove the fan leaves that shade out the lower branches, or should we leave them on to encourage more growth? Thanks in advance!

Pfc. THC

Dear Pfc. THC,

This is a question I hear often, and it's one of intense debate, as you well know. Fan leaves are essential to the photosynthesis process; think of them as biological factories taking in light and CO<sub>2</sub> while giving off oxygen to build plant cells and sugars. Removing them takes energy away from the corresponding buds above and limits your plants' growth and ultimate yield.

The best compromise when fan leaves are shading out potential colas is to tuck the large leaf under the nearest branch or stem. This way, the leaf remains on the plant as a productive influence, while your plant tops can bask and fill out in full light. Be gentle when doing this to avoid damaging or pulling off the fan leaf altogether.

### FIM FLAM

This is a letter concerning the FIM technique. What is it exactly, and at what age of the plant should you use it? Do you start when the plants root out from cloning, or when they're in 1-gallon pots? And can you do it in the first week of bloom? Thanks!

Blaine

Dear Blaine,

FIM (for "Fuck, I Missed!") is a technique first described in the pages of HIGH TIMES by Kyle Kushman. A reader had written in concerning his experiences of topping a plant without actually cutting off the whole growing tip (hence the "I missed" part). He found that instead of two growing shoots, many times he got three or more, which later developed into healthy tops and bigger harvests per plant. Lo and behold, Kyle tried it on his own plants and it worked, becoming forever immortalized as a more efficient alternative to training and topping.

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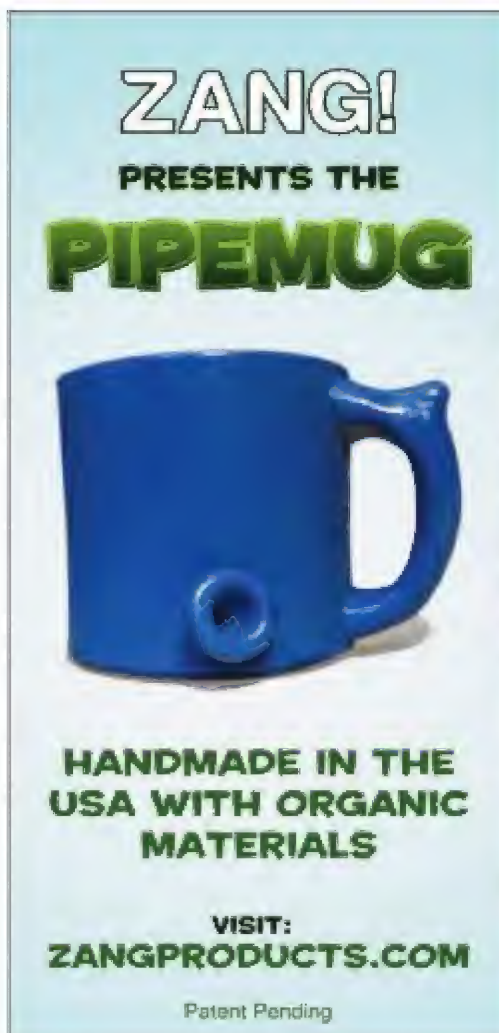
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Dear Danko



Tucking healthy fan leaves under works better than removing them altogether.

FIMing your plants, however, is not something to do throughout their entire grow cycle. Let your plants develop at least three sets of leaves before FIMing, and never do it during the flowering stage—you'll only be diminishing your future yields at that point, so it's a real waste of growing shoots. In fact, I don't recommend using the FIM technique within 10 days or so of inducing flowering in order to avoid adversely affecting your harvest.

### ROOT APHIDS

Hey! I wrote in a while back to see if you'd do an article on root aphids, but I haven't seen one yet. I believe these are more common than people think, especially soil growers. They hide on the outside of roots, so unless you pull the plant out to observe it, you don't see them until they're winged and flying around. The problem then is that most people probably write them off as fungus gnats.

I've used Azamax soil drenches, pyrethrin sprays and dips and more, and they're still around after almost two years! What gives with these things? There's not a lot of info out there on them.

Ben in RI

Dear Ben,  
Sadly, I've been hearing more and more about these unique and persistent pests. Root aphids reproduce so rapidly that some growers say they're "born pregnant and die pregnant." As

you noted, they're also often misdiagnosed as fungus gnats, and traditional treatments such as Azamax and Gnatrol won't work to treat them. They've also been found in every kind of growing medium, from soil to coco to hydroponic ones such as rockwool and grow rocks (expanded clay pellets). They've even been seen in aeroponic and DWC systems where roots dangle in mist and nutrient solution only.

Getting rid of root aphids requires a combination of efforts. Rotate your pest-control regimen daily using neem oil, pyrethrins and other organic insecticides, and be sure to treat the medium as well as the plants. There's also a promising product called Botanigard made up of a fungus that attacks aphids, whiteflies and thrips.

The best way to avoid getting root aphids altogether is to isolate any new clones and avoid bringing pathogens or infected plants and soils into your grow space. Always check out the leaf surfaces, underneath all leaves and the top layer of your medium for signs of bugs, and treat them immediately upon discovery.

### LIGHTEN UP

Hello, HIGH TIMES! I started growing a few months ago and gathered a lot of info along the way to help me through the ups and downs. Now I'm on the last few weeks of my second grow and need a few questions answered before I start my next one. I recently purchased a 4' x 4'

tent and 400-watt setup that is giving me better results than my first grow with compact fluorescents: The top colas are denser and the inner node spacing has decreased, which is what I was hoping with the 400-watt high-intensity discharge (HID) system.

Now that harvest is nearing, I can see tons of improvements for my setup in the coming months. My plan is to add a 600-watt light to my 400-watt, for a total of 1,000 watts and about 150,000 lumens. Will this setup be inadequate due to the 200-watt difference compared to the 600-watt, or is it pointless because of the size of the tent? I've read of others trying this setup and ending up with great results, but some say it's pointless because of the excess heat and wasted light. Please help me with this dilemma before I make a big mistake! Thank you in advance.

Perry

Dear Perry,

Adding a 600-watt light to your 400-watt setup in a 4' x 4' tent may cause more problems than it's worth: The amount of heat created will certainly more than double from where it is now, so if you do plan this course of action, make sure both hoods are air-cooled, meaning that hot air around the bulbs is constantly vented out of your tent before it can affect the plants.

That said, 1,000 watts coming from two different bulbs and hoods does seem like overkill for the amount of space you're using. Overloading a small space with too much light will result in diminishing returns and more work and frustration. It's probably more beneficial to upgrade to just one 600-watt light in your tent—or just get another tent and use the 400 in one and the 600 in the other. That way, you can maximize the light footprint while maintaining a better level of control over your environment.

### LUNG EXPANDER

High! I live in a village in eastern Oregon. I'm a member of the OMMP (Oregon Medical Marijuana Program), and I need some help. I have asthma and need very particular medicine (Super Lemon Haze works very well for me). I was wondering if you could tell me some other strains that will open my airways. They need to be very smooth, and any help would be nice. Thank you very much!

K Bear

Dear KB,

Sounds to me like *sativa*-dominant strains (like the Super Lemon Haze) work well for helping with the symptoms of your asthma. I'd recommend similar varieties such as Jack Herer, Super Silver Haze and Strawberry Cough. You'll have to continue experimenting to find the one that works best for you, and I also highly recommend growing your own, since true *sativas* are less prevalent and harder to find in dispensaries or from caregivers. Good luck! ✨

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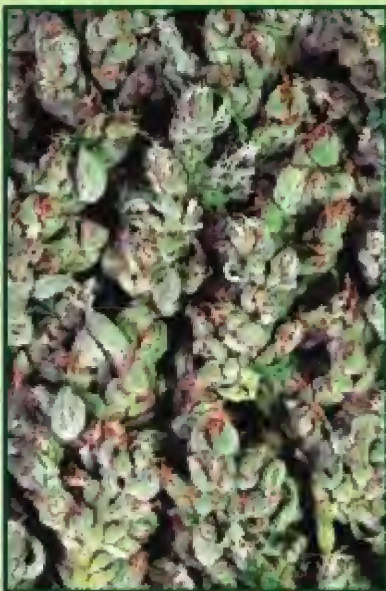
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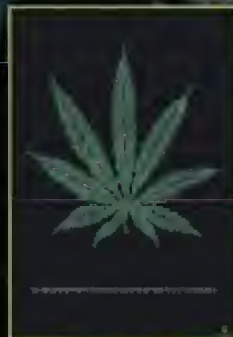


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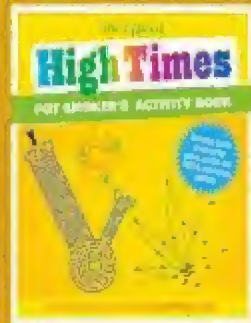
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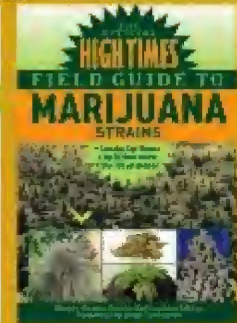
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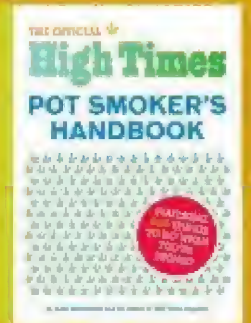
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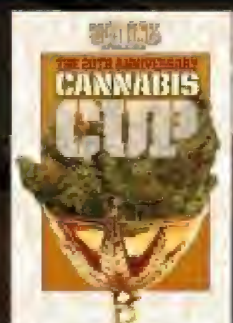
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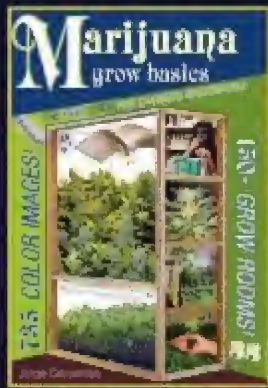
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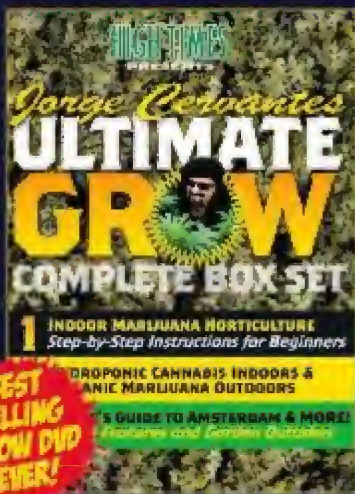


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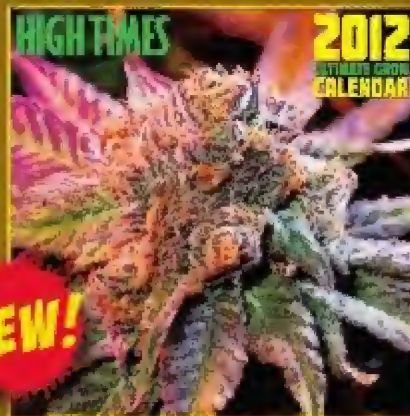
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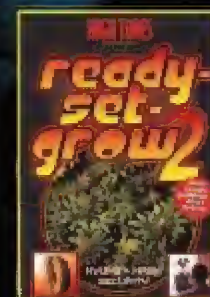
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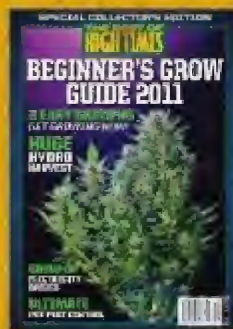
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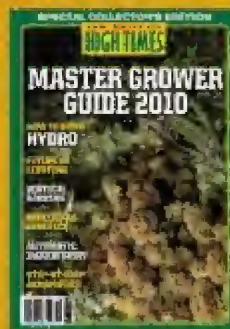


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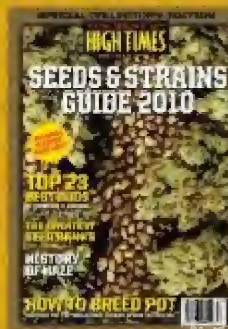
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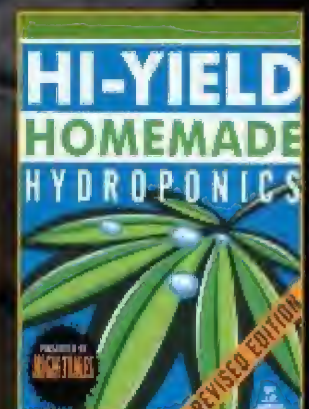


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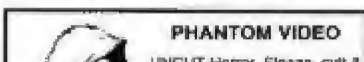
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1 **Mat LOVES Cindy**

2 **GrandPoobah**

3 **STEM**  
The **Meatmen**  
Because the Devil's work is never done!

5 **BUD**

6 **LUCY DEER**

A GREAT AMERICAN DOG

8 **LONG LIVE GONZO!**

All the Florida boys said  
say: Ross, Maggot, Shantell, Crazy  
Connie, Eladio, Max, RJ, Jayson, Dave,  
the Man, Tree and Molly!

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9 **Mighty High**

10 **Treezy 4 Sheezy**  
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11 **Congratulations Bobby and APRIL**

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12 God is Perfect, man is not.  
Man made beer, God made Pot!

13 **Freedom for the rich, body-bags for the poor.**  
America, land of the free (if you're rich)

14 **WEMU-FM**  
Conventionally Unconventional

15 **IF** Mike Huckabee becomes president, Mexico is going to have to put up a wall to keep the Americans out!

16 I was so sorry to read about the Dutch gov't's oppression of their coffeeshops. For my own part, I'm going to boycott Heineken beer, tulips and other Dutch exports until they restore their previous attitude of tolerance and compassion.

17 **American Hero BRADLEY MANNING**

18 **POT**

19 **NEW HAMPSHIRITES:**  
SOON IT WILL BE TIME ONCE AGAIN TO SEE IF GOVERNOR LYNCH WILL VETO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE OR OBEY IT!

20 I can't wait for the first anniversary of marijuana legalization!

21 **I Love YOU, Cindy... Get well soon!**

22 Joe Peashead is busted with a bag of mushrooms and gets two years in jail. Rush Limbaugh is busted with a cigar box full of black-market OxyContin and gets probation. Am I the only one who sees something wrong here?

23 **Albert Einstein: Genius or Fraud?**

25 **PUSSY PUFFER Lies**  
are like cockroaches - where there's one, there's a bunch!

26 **Reality-TV show The Dispensary**, about medical Marijuana:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2\\_63Z8nPVY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2_63Z8nPVY)

27 **ZIK**

28 **CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN**  
The first alt-rock band is still the best!

29 I would never - I mean never - vote for a site like Bong TV Live for any reason whatsoever. This site encourages unsafe measures and is not a site for us real smokers who are trying to get the right things done for our culture.

30 **UHS RECORDS**  
a.k.a. "The Label with the bong"

31 **To my hubby of 18 years: you are the best smoking partner around!** Looking forward to the next 18 stony years! Extreme smuggling, amazing bud and the offspring.  
♥ Love ya! Gemma.

32 **420**

34 **FIRST CLASS**

35 **She's a Dedicated Activist**

37 **To every thing There is a season And a time to every Purpose under heaven. Now is the time to Gather 'Stoners Together**

39 **ARE YOU A FLICR?**  
<http://www.flcr.info>

40 **Genesis 1:29:** "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth."  
- GOD

BALLOT

BALLOT

BALLOT

What would you like to see on the POT 40? Write your ideas on this ballot and mail to:

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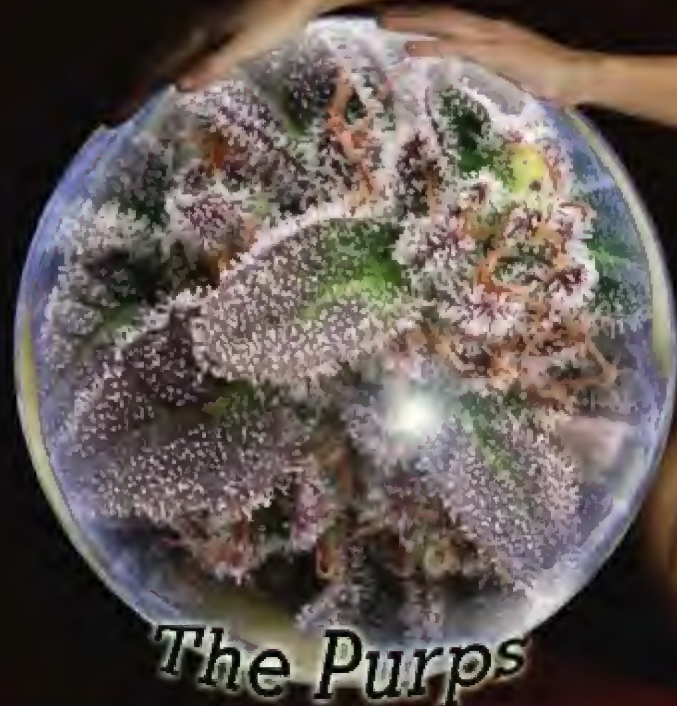
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- LEMON OG 18 - \$75
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